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Tuition rises 5 percent

By Kathryn Flagg
News Editor

In a letter mailed yesterday to parents of Middlebury College students, President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz announced a 2006-2007 comprehensive fee of $44,330. This fee, which was approved by the Board of Trustees at their February meeting, represents a 5.25 percent increase from the College's current sticker price — a full one percent higher than last year's 4.25 percent hike.

In his April 5 letter, Liebowitz cites "higher fuel costs and related increases in other services" as the primary reason for this year's higher increase. In an interview by telephone with *The Middlebury Campus*, Liebowitz noted that he finds this increase fair, "given a whole set of circumstances," and that he supports the fee, which ensures that the College can continue to "offer the finest education possible."

The fee reflects the work of the Student Comprehensive Fee Committee, which presented a proposed 5.5 percent increase in February to

Middlebury's price tag:

$44,330

See graph of tuition increases on page 4.

the Board of Trustees. The final number, as decided upon by the President's staff, was only $128 less

See Comprehensive, page 4

Vlad Lodoaba

French police patrol the streets of Paris in an effort to curb violence resulting from student and labor protests.

Studies in France halted

Protests affect Midd students at universities

By Scott Greene
Staff Writer

Protests in Paris have presented a literal roadblock for Middlebury students abroad, as strikes by major universities have prevented them from attending classes.

Numerous universities, including Sciences-Po and Sorbonne Nouvelle, have gone on strike against France's new First Employment Contract (CPE). Schools in Paris are holding weekly voting sessions at which they determine whether or not to participate in the "*blocage*," or the suspension of classes.

"The students know when they go over there to French public universities that there is always a slight risk of a strike," noted Michael Geisler, dean of schools abroad and professor of German at Middlebury College.

Protests and riots have historically been and continue to be a viable form of political protest in France. Uprisings in 1968 helped to undermine the legitimacy of General Charles de Gaulle, who resigned the following year. Similarly, students have intervened most notably in 1986, 1994, 1995 and 2005 to halt government plans.

Geisler said that based on past experience, most suspected that French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin would have withdrawn the controversial law and quelled the protests. Thus far, however, no such action has occurred.

For the first two weeks of strikes, many faculty members continued classes on an informal basis. However, as some universities have entered their sixth week of striking, Middlebury has taken steps to ensure that its students are able to complete their studies this semester. Thirty-seven Middlebury students — a total of 50 undergraduate students — are currently studying in Middlebury Programs in France.

"We decided to provide sub-

See Parisian, page 3

ADP cuts national org. ties

By Rachel Greenhaus
Staff Writer

The social house Alpha Delta Phi (ADP) no longer exists at Middlebury College. "The Delta House," the social organization that has taken its place, includes the same members, the same house and many of the same principles. But there is one major difference: The Delta House, unlike ADP, is not a member of the national Alpha Delta Phi Society any more. As of last spring, the two are completely dissociated organizations, and the Delta House seems to welcome this change. House leadership made the decision so members would no longer have to pay more expensive dues as part of its obligation to supplement the national chapter. Under the new name, all of the Middlebury Delta House dues collected are directly controlled by the organization's officers and members. There is only one catch: the dissociation means that members may no longer use any of the names or trademarks of the national ADP chapter.

The members of last year's Delta House voted for the split after a conflict over insurance money. As House member Alex Stanton '07 explained, "The members of the Middlebury chapter paid dues to the national chapter on a yearly basis. The cost of the insurance policy would have dramatically increased the amount each member was forced to pay. Further, the many areas which the new policy would cover did not apply to the Middle-

See ADP, page 5

Social life task force convenes

By Lisie Mehlman
News Editor

In response to student vocalization of discontent with social life on campus, the administration has developed the Social Life Task Force. An amalgamation of students with different interests selected to represent the diverse College community, the Task Force held its first meeting in Forest Hall last Friday afternoon, gathering to discuss the ostensible decline of Middlebury's social life.

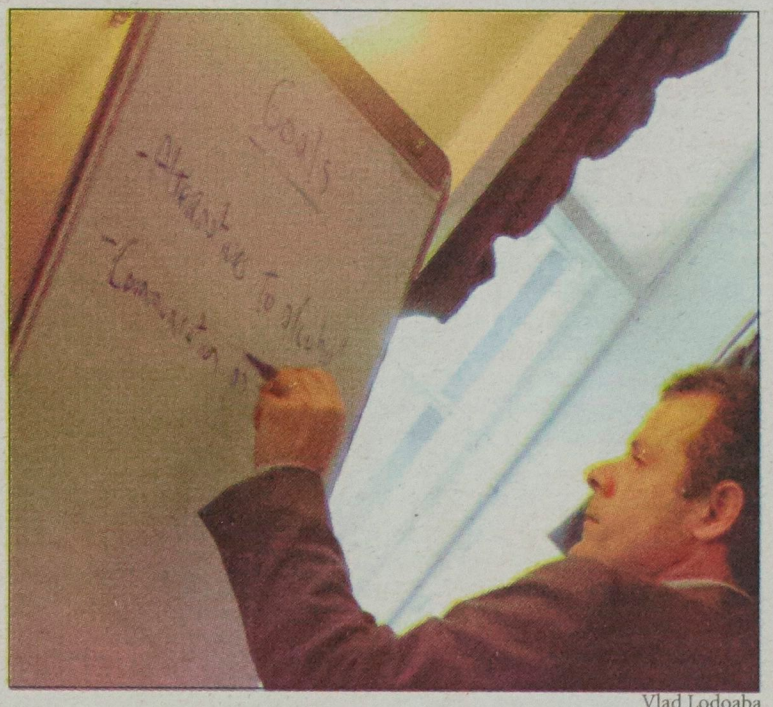
Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson and Dean of the College Tim Spears facilitated the first meeting but plan on attending only a few more sessions before handing over full control of the Task Force to its student members. They stressed that the Task Force should be student-driven and that they were involved only to provide support. They also informed the students that their ultimate goal is to present a series of recommendations to the administration regarding ways in which they can foster an improved social life on campus.

When asked about the impetus for the creation of such a Task Force, Hanson said, "We have heard a lot this year from students about the lack of a satisfying social life on campus. Students have the creativity, the ideas and the energy to change social life. We started the task force in order to facilitate their efforts and help improve social life."

Marco Casas '07, a member of the Task Force, said, "Coming back from my semester abroad I noticed that social life in Middlebury had deteriorated dramatically. I am a person who loves doing his homework but also likes to foment social interaction. So, I felt inclined to put an end to this crisis." His displeasure, which compelled him to join the committee, was echoed by many other students in attendance at the meeting. Other Task Force members cited the over-under 21 age divide as a problem they sought to alleviate. Still others hoped to develop social activities on campus that were not so heavily alcohol-oriented. Most students called for the creation of alternatives and a wider variety of events offered on campus.

Hanson believes that the real goal of the Task

See Students, page 4



Vlad Lodoaba

Dean of StudentsTim Spears takes notes at the first meeting of the Social Life Task Force to brainstorm goals for the committee's future endeavors.

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MIDDBRIEFS

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

Orange Grove Gospel to perform Saturday

The Orange Grove Gospel Choir of Durham, N.C., will return to Middlebury College on Saturday to perform in Mead Chapel at 4 p.m. The choir's performance, the third at the College, will celebrate the conclusion of this week's Religious Life Awareness Week.

The Orange Grove Gospel Choir's Saturday performance coincides this year with the announcement of the annual Angels Award. The award, given every year to a sophomore woman of color, memorializes four first-year students who were killed in an automobile accident in 2001. The parents of students of Anisa Gamble, Tiffany Holmes, Iniko Johnson and Maika Prewitt established the Angels Award in the wake of their daughters' tragic deaths to honor women at the College who embody the spirit of all four students. This year's Angels Award will be honored during Saturday's concert, which is free and open to the public. Donations to the Angels Endowment Fund are appreciated.

The Orange Grove Gospel Choir is remembered best by many College community members for the comfort its members provided in the wake of Gamble's, Holme's, Johnson's and Prewitt's deaths.

College hosts event on women in academia

This Saturday Middlebury College will host a symposium addressing the controversies and questions surrounding women in academia. The symposium was organized in the wake of public remarks made by former Harvard president Lawrence Summers in 2005 that questioned the role women play in higher education. The event will feature a panel of women scholars in philosophy, history, education, psychology and economics, and will take place in the conference room of the Robert A. Jones '59 House.

Panelists for the event, which will last from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., include Helen Horowitz, Sydenham Clark Parsons professor of history and American studies at Smith College; Mary Ann Dzuback, associate professor of education and history at Washington University of St. Louis; Roxanne Gudeman, adjunct professor of psychology at Macalester College; Jane Roland Martin, professor emeritus of philosophy from University of Massachusetts, Boston; Barbara Gault, vice president and director of research at the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, D.C., and research professor at George Washington University; Diana Strassman, a senior research fellow at Rice University and editor of Feminist Economics; and Ann Mari May, visiting associate professor of economics at Middlebury College.

Faculty garner awards for scholarship, research

Faculty members Ellen Oxfeld, Ana Martinez-Lage, Gloria Estela Gonzalez, and Michael Kraus have been honored recently with research awards, fellowships and grants for their scholarship. Oxfeld, of the Sociology and Anthropology department, received a received a research award from the Fulbright Scholar Program for her scheduled leave next year. Oxfled will spend Spring 2007 in Mei Xian, Guangdong, China working on a research project titled, "Food and Cultural Transformation in Rural China." She will be affiliated with Jiaying University in Meizhou, Guangdong.

Martinez-Lage of the Spanish department received a fellowship from the Marion & Jasper Whiting Foundation providing funding for a curriculum development project titled, "One country, four languages: Exposing the linguistic plurality of Spain." During her leave during the 2006-2007 academic year, Martinez-Lage will also take a course in Basque at the University of Pamplona.

Also of the Spanish department, Gonzalez also received a fellowship from the Marion & Jasper Whiting Foundation for her project titled, "Invisible Mexico: Migrant Workers in Vermont". This grant will provide support for a two-month trip to Mexico this summer to gather materials and conduct interviews in preparation for incorporating service learning into her course, Latin American Perspectives on the U.S.

In the Political Science department, Kraus has been awarded a grant from the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) for a book project titled "Between Democracy and Dictatorship: Edvard Benes, Czechoslovakia and the Great Powers, 1938-1948." The grant will support his research in Czech and Russian archives next year.

ICICLE heats up energy issue

By Polly Johnson
NEWS EDITOR

In an effort to reduce campus energy usage, Bobby Levine '08, with the support of the Sunday Night Group and a large number of volunteers, has created ICICLE, the Inter-Commons Initiative to Consume Less Energy. As stated in the all-student e-mail that was sent out, ICICLE is a "campus-wide energy contest that started April 1. Commons are competing against each other to see which commons can reduce electricity use the most over the month of April." The winning Commons will be invited to a late night pizza and ice cream social, complete with Flatbread-style pizza and Ben & Jerry's ice cream.

Levine, in discussing the planning of the event, said, "There have been energy contests in years past, and I was told as a freshmen that they were rather lackluster and no one got excited about them. I thought we could do better than that, and in the process save lots of electricity, reduce carbon emissions and generally educate the student body about how much energy they really use. After some brainstorming, I came up with the acronym for ICICLE, and I love the fact that there's a connection to climate change (the icicle melting)."

As to those who have helped with the initiative, Levine credits the Sunday Night Group, which he says "has been instrumental in helping [him] get the ball rolling, and lots of outside help and volunteers." He also credits Campus Sustainability Coordinator Jack Byrne, who has "been very helpful in helping me organize the contest," as well as Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette, who is working on the organization of the pizza and ice cream party in the dining hall. Finally, he noted Assistant Director of Facilities Services Michael Moser and Supervisor of Maintenance Electricians Dean Ouellette as "immensely helpful" to the project.

In a second all school e-mail,

Courtesy

Josh Chan '08 shows his energy-efficient enthusiasm for compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Levine outlined possible ways for students to cut back on energy usage — small steps that seem useless but actually have the potential to make a huge difference. Such an act as trading in regular light bulbs for compact fluorescent light bulbs can reduce energy use by as much as 66 percent. Other small steps include hibernating or turning off computers as much as possible and always turning off the lights when leaving a room. Levine noted that the school has already experimented with having students trade in regular light bulbs for compact fluorescent ones, and that it was a successful venture. "The light bulb exchange program, in conjunction with the energy contest we ran between Battell and Stewart in the month of October to November, was a preliminary test of the energy contest idea. We discovered that students really responded to the right incentive — in that case, Flatbread pizza — so for this contest I worked to create an equally appealing prize."

The issue of climate change will not disappear in our lifetime, and the sooner we start addressing it, the better off we'll be.
—Bobby Levine '08

Levine hopes that, ultimately, "students will understand the consequences of their behavior," noting that students "plug electronics into the wall and heat our dorm rooms with little consideration for where that energy comes from. I want students to understand the connection between their behavior and climate change, because addressing the world crisis requires us all to change the way we act and what resources we consume. The issue will not disappear in our lifetime, and the sooner we start addressing it, the better off we'll be."

German house gears for move

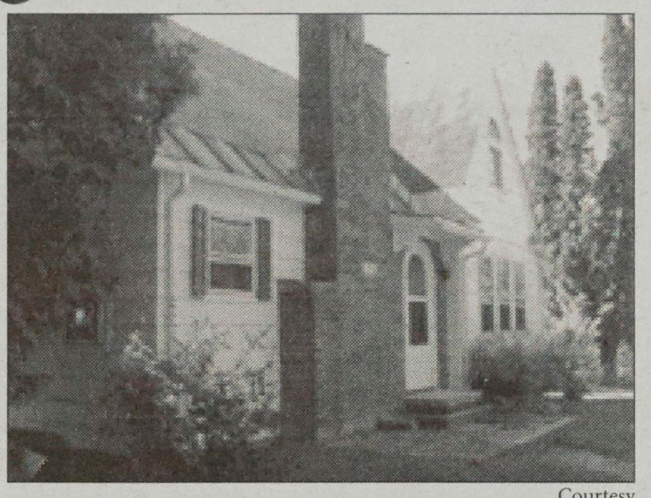
By Emily Thompson
STAFF WRITER

Six lucky students will move into the newly located and improved German House and Max Kade Center at the start of next semester. The German House, the first academic house to have been established on campus, will also be the first language house to possess a permanent residence. Previously located at 99 Adirondack, the German House will now occupy the former Ross Commons' Deanery, next to the Blue Hen. The new location brings the German House closer to the both the French and Arabic houses on Franklin Street as well as the Portuguese house on College Street. Though there had been hopes of moving the German House to Franklin Street in order to create an "Embassy Row," this plan was cast aside when the Deanery became a viable option.

In 2003, Dean of Language Schools and Schools Abroad and Professor of German Michael Geisler submitted a proposal to the Max Kade Foundation for the creation of a new German House. The Kade Foundation is an organization that supports German institutions and education programs throughout the nation. The Kade Seminar Room located in the basement of Pearsons is evidence, right here on campus, of such nurturing of German studies. The foundation also supports the German Department and the summer language school. Due to its generous donation, as well as additional funding from Middlebury, the new permanent German residence was made possible.

Though the former house was inarguably suitable, Assistant Professor of German and German House Advisor Bettina Matthias hopes that the new house will attract more students and will allow the department to host traditional German events that were simply too big for 99 Adirondack. Due to its larger size, the department hopes to offer bigger dinners, more screenings and parties.

The new house includes four bedrooms, including two doubles, a large common room in the back, an eat-in kitchen,



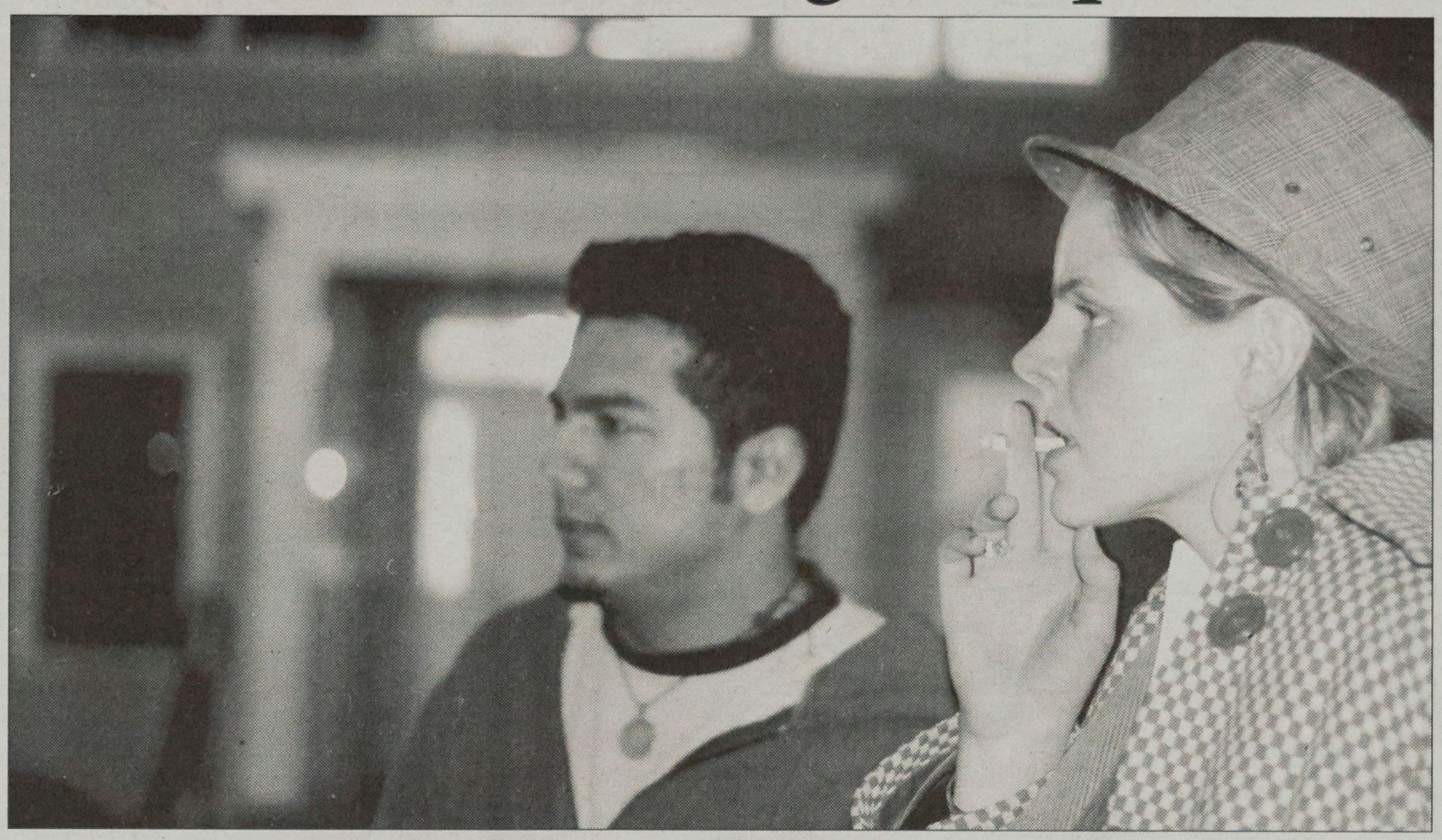
Courtesy

The German Department will vacate its old house at 99 Adirondack when it relocates this May to the Ross Deanery.

two porches and an apartment for the teaching assistant. Previously, the teaching assistant, who is generally from Mainz in West Germany, had to hold meetings in his kitchen or somewhere else on campus. In the new house, the assistant will have his or her own small office adjacent to his or her bedroom. The house will also be completely handicap accessible, with a handicap bathroom and elevator lift.

The German Department hopes that the house will be completed by May in preparation for the summer language school, when the German director will occupy the house. Because of the hype surrounding the new house, the number of applicants increased significantly this year. Like many of the language houses, the students who live in the house will all speak German in varying degrees of fluency. The German House aims to provide a more comfortable living residence and a conducive learning environment for all German speakers.

SGA tables smoking ban question



Albert Bitici

Zeeshan Hyder '07 and Brigette Frett '06 , smoking outside of the Robert A. Jones '59 house, attended an open SGA meeting before spring break. In their latest meeting, the SGA decided to postpone any decision regarding the potential smoking ban until further investigation.

By Annie Onishi
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) held its weekly meeting on Sunday in the Robert A. Jones '59 House Conference Room. Agenda topics included a discussion about a possible change in school policy regarding smoking, a report from two representatives from the Service Council, the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate the College's Napster subscription, a possible alteration to the SGA constitution to change senatorial representation to a more commons-based system and a discussion about the upcoming Faculty/Staff Appreciation Award.

Discussion about the possible change in the College's smoking policy incited lengthy and polarized discussion. A survey administered by a senatorial ad hoc committee reported that most students surveyed favored either no change to the current smoking policy, or a firmer banned radius. Rarely did a student opt for the complete prohibition of smoking on campus.

Sophomore Senator Max Nardini '08 proposed a "soft radius," which would require smokers to "maintain a respectful distance away from doors or windows where smoking may adversely affect others." According to Nardini, a "soft radius" would take a non-formulaic approach to the issue, embody the philosophy of Middlebury College and would "support the respectful action of both smokers and non-smokers on campus." The proposal received mixed responses, with one argument against a "soft radius" being that it is not the place of the SGA to legislate respect. The Senate decided to table the issue and concluded to investigate more deeply.

Following the discussion about the smoking policy, Mary Mendoza '06 and Lynn Gray '07.5 of the Middlebury College Service Council, an organization with representatives from all of the College's service groups, presented their proposal for a change in the way service organizations are funded. Presently, service organizations, like all other student-run clubs and organizations, receive money from the Finance Committee fund, to which all students contribute when the tuition bill is paid. However, the Finance Committee, because of its by-laws, cannot always fully fund service projects because the money does not directly come back to the campus, but is instead going out into the greater Middlebury community. Mendoza, Gray and the Senate agreed that the Service Council's proposal still needed revision, and the group will present the final draft at next week's SGA meeting.

Other brief topics of the meeting included a dialogue about renewing the College's subscription to Napster, altering the SGA's Constitution to change the Senate's make-up to a more commons-based representation and a possible change to how the Budget and Finance Committees operate.

The meeting concluded with a discussion about the upcoming Faculty/Staff Appreciation Award. According to Chief of Staff Marcus Hughes '06, the Faculty/Staff Appreciation Award serves to "have students show some appreciation for all the hard work that their faculty and staff members put forth throughout the year. That's the main idea." After a campus-wide e-mail is sent to students, students nominate a faculty or staff member and briefly explain the nomination. The SGA then discusses the nominations and votes on a winner. The presentation of the award will occur on April 26 in Ross' Fireplace Lounge. Hughes added that the criteria for the winner are not specific, but that "students must feel [that the faculty member is] worthy of receiving an award for his or her service."

Parisian strikes affect Midd students

Continued from page 1

stitute courses for our students," Geisler said. Director of Off-Campus Study David Macey added that Middlebury responded to the situation rather quickly. "Other American programs have not yet done anything," he claimed.

Putting forth large sums of money, Middlebury has hired professors and is offering its students seven courses. These courses, which began last week, represent an amalgamation of the various fields currently pursued by Middlebury students in France. Middlebury Students must decide next week whether to take advantage of this option before they begin a two-week Easter vacation. Even if the universities re-open and halt their strikes, Geisler says that the students will stay in these substitute courses. "We can't just hang in there and wait to take a chance," he explained.

Though most students remain out of classes, some scools have in fact restarted. Naomi Haefner '07 recently returned to her school after its two weeks of strikes subsided.

"Because my campus was only closed for two weeks I think we will be able to finish the semester as planned," she said. She added that though she took a makeup class, she doesn't expect to take any more "provided that [her] Parisian university doesn't go on strike again."

Haefner expressed satisfaction with the assistance that Middlebury has provided her during such an academically uncertain time.

"Middlebury has been very good about organizing makeup classes for everyone," she said. "They even started to organize some for me personally."

Middlebury students have resided at the epicenter of the demonstrations from the beginning, many of them experiencing the protests first-hand. Will Martin '07.5, currently attending Sciences-Po, experienced a demonstration as a passive observer.

"It was a peaceful event, with chanting, singing and dancing," he observed, "until night fell when the students protesting the CPE were joined by almost every other marginalized social group from in and around Paris."

He added that much of the ensuing protest, especially its violent aspects, came from kids aged around 15 years. "Cocktails were being thrown on cars that were incinerating, and fire was being set to anything and everything," he said. "Anything that was made by the state — signs, bus stops — was being consumed by hand by the masses."

Sara Dewey '07.5, studying art history at Paris IV, echoed Martin's observations. Her school was one of the last to join the *blocage*, voting to do so only three weeks ago. She observed the resulting destruction a day after the initial riots, walking down Paris' Place de la Sorbonne.

"I couldn't believe it was Paris," she said. "Cars were smashed all over the street, even flipped over, and mopeds and scooters had been burned. Now Place de la Sorbonne is completely blocked off and there are cops absolutely everywhere in the city."

At the same time, the recent events in Paris have afforded Middlebury students a unique opportunity. Macey remarked that students have been able to start independent projects on the strikes, some while continuing their language studies through the French for Foreigners program.

Martin agrees that he has been exposed to an unlikely perspective and said that "as for being in the thick of it, I like it, it's interesting to see this expression first-hand."

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY NIRVANA BHATIA

PARIS — A man actually smiled at me out of his own volition this morning on the train, a sign that spring has finally arrived here in Paris, and the women have switched from their cashmere-lined fur coats into their long merino-wool pea coats. What else but spring fever could explain these most rare of sights in the French species? Even now, I am sitting on the steps of the Eglise Madeleine, with the brilliant sun shining through the haze of grey-blue skies, watching the Parisians march towards Place de la Concorde. But while you may be dreaming of romance under the Eiffel Tower or aimless strolls along the sun-splattered Seine, I have a much more urgent matter to ponder: which country shall I visit for lunch?

Before you attempt to explain to me that it is not yet possible to travel through space, I must clarify that I grew up all over Asia. My attempts at mixing together white rice, those smashed rocks they call falafel and chili sauce in a fading Chinese print noodle bowl in Ross never once have mimicked the meals I crave. Here in Paris, however, it's a different story. You might as well start spinning your globe to help you make a decision as to which region's splendors you should take advantage of today. Your choices range from (what my friends and I have nicknamed somewhat politically incorrectly): Chinatown, Indoland (both North and South), Arabworld, Jewish Quarter, Africa! and Japanese Empire. We have yet to think of something for the yummy Laotian place!

Oh, and if you may so desire, finding some of those baguette sandwiches brimming with melted cheese or a box of lavender macaroons or a bowl of steaming hot onion soup, those aren't that hard to find either. In fact, there's even a nearly hidden door in the 17th arrondissement that leads to an elegant shop selling products for espresso machines, and it entertains its customers with free drinks. Basically, it's a free Starbucks with unbelievably comfy leather chairs and travel photo books to flip through. These are my special places, where the heritage of food and culture come together to create a magical experience that reminds me of my many homes.

While the steaming bowls of Vietnamese rice noodles garnished with basil, bean sprouts, limes and chilies, plates and plates of Lebanese appetizers and South Indian *dosas* are the center of the meal, for me, the enticement comes in forgetting that I am in Paris for a few moments and discovering an entirely different culture. Nobody shouts louder or faster than the Arab fruit sellers in Chinatown; only in Indoland do I hear strains of my beloved Bollywood pop songs belting out from each store; and it is only in the Jewish Quarter, amidst the traditionally dressed men, that I feel a sense of calm in this overwhelming city. My favorite part is witnessing the faint glimmer of recognition in their eyes and the tiny startle in their neck as I attempt to communicate with the inhabitants of each neighborhood in their native tongues. These French-influenced immigrants are too refined to make a verbal comment on your knowledge of their language, but even if I only know a few basic words of their language, or can even just pronounce the names on the menu correctly, each individual suddenly warms up, freely sharing a multitude of those extraordinary smiles so rare here in Paris. It is a beautiful day here today though, so maybe I shall just visit the market around the corner, where the Moroccan man will hand me a mango reminiscent of those I eat every day in my summers in India, and return here to watch the entire world pass right before me.

Comprehensive fee continues upward trend

Upcoming year's tuition figure breaks $44,000 mark due to rising fuel costs

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than the fee proposed by the committee.

Number Crunching

The cost of this "finest education" remains significantly expensive. Next year marks the third academic year in which the College's comprehensive fee will top $40,000. With annual increases ranging from, in general, four to six percent, parents and students recognize the inevitability of climbing costs — though, this year, the College is quick to attribute a portion of its increased fee to rising fuel costs.

According to Executive Vice President and Treasurer Bob Huth, approximately one percent of the 5.25 percent increase is tied directly to these fuel costs. "Our #6 oil budget needed to be increased by $1 million," Huth told *The Campus*.

The rising cost of fuel also influenced the budget across the board. "It's not just the cost of heating buildings," said Michael McKenna, the College's recently instated vice president of communications. McKenna mentioned that transportation, food costs and other services saw prices climb this year as a result of more expensive fuel.

While this year's 5.25 percent increase in the comprehensive fee is higher than last year's increase, McKenna and Huth were confident that Middlebury's fee increase would fall "in line," as Huth stated, with the College's peer institutions. At the time of press, only one other college in Middlebury's athletic conference, Wesleyan University, had released its comprehensive fee for the upcoming school year.

"I think that last year we were the lowest of our peers," McKenna said. "This year, we're closer to the norm. It reflects that the energy prices hit everybody."

College officials such as Huth, McKenna and Liebowitz also noted that the comprehensive fee, while substantial, only represents just over 60 percent of the total cost to educate a Middlebury student. Endowment income, grants and donor gifts make up the remaining amount.

Huth noted that it is important that students share in the total cost of the College's education "so that the College's endowment can continue to support future students in the same way that current students are supported."

According to Huth, the endowment currently provides approximately $45 million a year to subsidize the cost of a student's education. In addition, donors provide over $10 million a year in gifts to support the annual operating costs of the College as well as between $25 and $30 million for the endowment.

Sticker Price for the Strategic Plan

While the comprehensive fee, and its rising cost, deal primarily with the operating costs of the College, McKenna, Huth and Liebowitz noted that the College's recently completed strategic plan informed this year's deliberations, although indirectly. McKenna pointed out that the "pillars of the strategic plan" — including growing the endowment, lowering financial barriers and reducing the student-to-teacher ration — provide long-term goals for the College that require intensive financial planning.

"If you look at the setting of the fee," he said, "what we can do day to day can help us plan for the future."

Liebowitz also referred to the College's strategic plan in his letter to parents, noting the plan's commitment to need-blind admissions, fostering diversity in the student body and enhancing faculty-student interactions. "It is an exciting time at the College," he wrote.

Assessing the Fee

The rising cost of higher education remains, of course, a topic of debate at institutes of higher learning across the country. According to an article in Tuesday's issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education,* rising operating costs are "a brewing crisis" for colleges. Speakers from across the country addressed the issue at the annual meeting this week of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

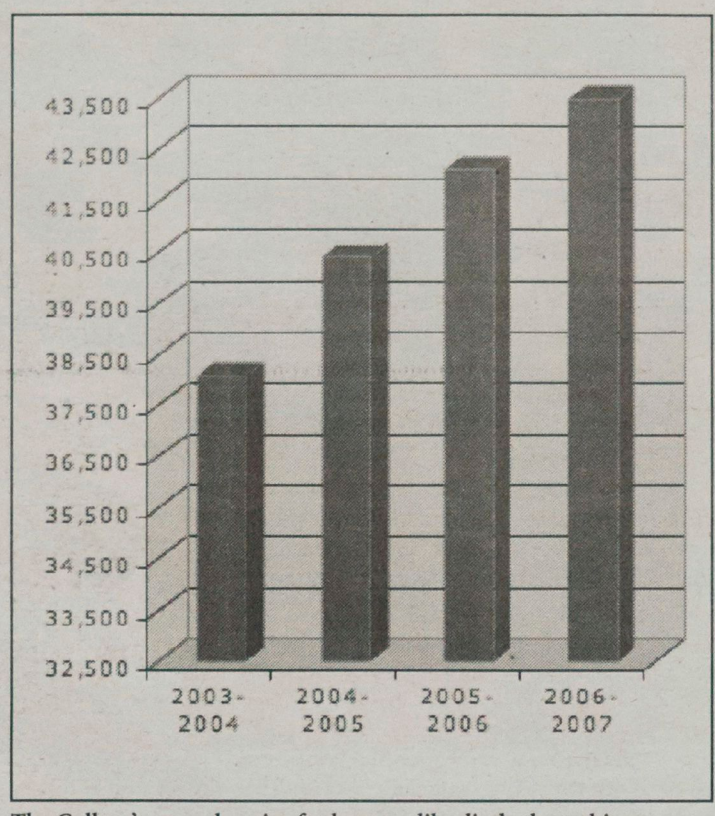
Closer to home, students have voiced some concerns at the ever-rising price tag attached to a Middlebury education.

Said one sophomore, "I understand that Middlebury has to be competitive, but I don't think that five percent increases are sustainable. At this rate, by the time we are adults our children will be paying over $200,000 a year for college."

Other students expressed wishes that the College would follow in the footsteps of Ivy League colleges like Harvard, which has recently significantly strengthened financial aid packages for families with incomes less than $60,000 a year.

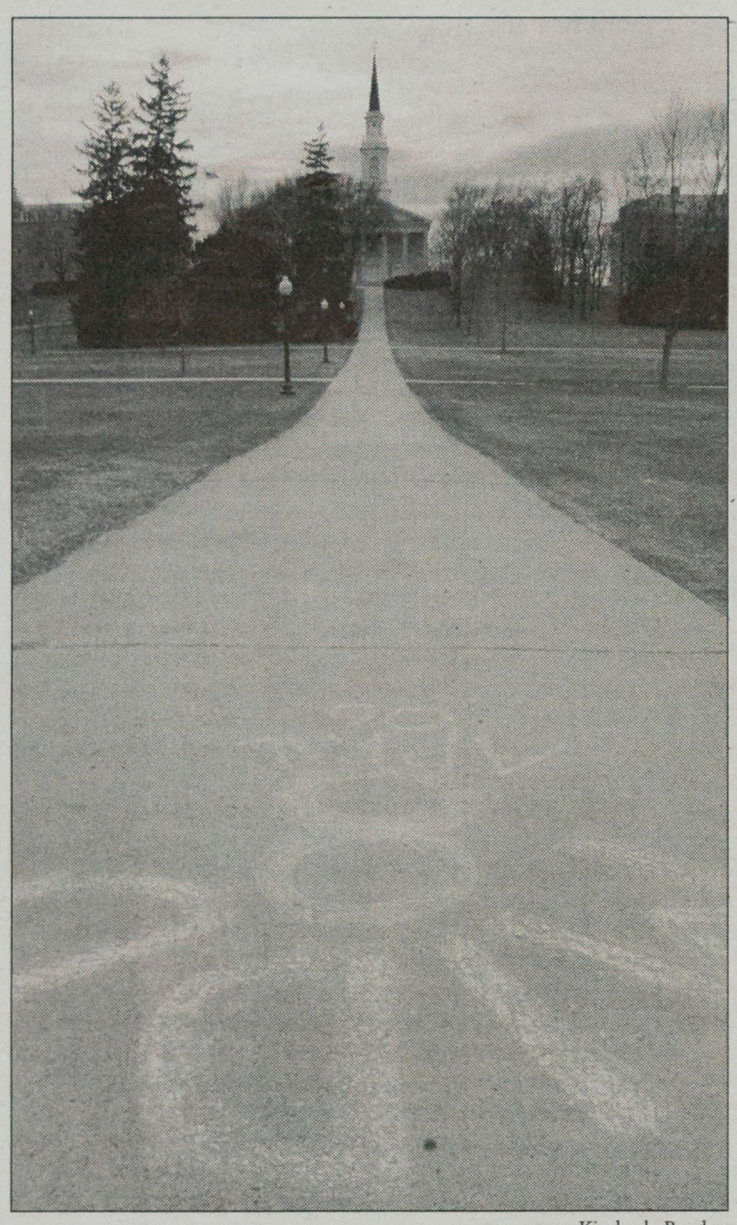
However, students and administrators almost unanimously agreed that the quality of a Middlebury education is worth its steep price.

"I think that the Middlebury education is an unbelievable opportunity," said McKenna, "but it costs a lot to provide." The nature of the Middlebury experience — with its small classes, intensive resources and available professors — is an attractive option for many students, he noted, but an option that unfortunately is cost intensive.



The College's comrehensive fee has steadily climbed, reaching a new high this year of $44,330. The fee is up 5.25 percent from last year.

CHALK OF THE TOWN



Kimberly Bowker

Making their mark — literally — on the Middlebury campus, the Midd8 crew hopes to rally the community around their April events, which include a series of thought-provoking lectures and screenings.

Students, administration tackle social life problem

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Force is "to identify what students want for social life and help them identify barriers to establishing that social life. We want to help them remove those barriers. We also want students to expand their definitions of social life. Is social life only parties with alcohol on Friday and Saturday night or are their other activities and events that students enjoy?" During the meeting, Hanson explained that she had noted a change in the College's social life and she attributed it at least partially to the fact that there is not a lot of student energy — in terms of organizing events — put forth. She noted that there are a lot of people on this campus who sit back and wait for someone else to organize things for them.

While it is true that the number of registered parties has been on the decline, many of the students perceived the root of this problem as lying someplace altogether different. Students in attendance voiced that the stricter enforcement of state liquor laws and the increased presence of members of the Middlebury Police Department made it difficult to participate in social activities on campus. Casas claimed that one of his primary goals in serving on the Task Force was to assure students "that every weekend there will be a cool activity for them to engage in without being harassed by the Middlebury police."

Interestingly, once a discussion of current issues and future goals got past the usual topics of the liquor laws and their effect of driving social life off campus, the student representatives began to discuss why exactly alcohol lies at the heart of what are perceived as social events. Some students explained this phenomenon with the good old "work hard, play hard" motto to which so many Midd kids subscribe.

The meeting members then began to talk about how difficult socialization was for so many students on campus, and the idea that alcohol is necessary to facilitate social interactions was discussed in some depth.

From here, members played with the idea that after freshman orientation, students never really get a chance to forge bonds with their classmates that are not in their direct social circles. Casas addressed this notion, saying, "Like in every community, social life in Middlebury is subdivided into different groups. That is quite natural to me. The problem is that Midd kids get sucked into their little groups and quickly lose their interest and initiative to interact with other groups outside of their own. That causes activities — like the McCullough Dance Parties, Social House Parties, etc. — to be aimed at certain groups only thus becoming monotonous and repetitive with time. I've noticed that most Middlebury students lack the self-confidence to leave their preconceptions behind and remember that they came to college alone."

The Task Force came up with a hefty list of goals for itself. But what challenges lie ahead as they proceed with brainstorming creative and feasible solutions to the problems currently plaguing campus social life? Hanson believes that these might lie in the fact that "we still have to work within local ordinances and the law, and we are half way through spring semester, which will challenge the group to finish by the end of the term."

Casas, however, believes that "the group's goals can certainly be met. We met with a solid and diverse group of students who seem ready to voice their opinions. Everything should be fine as long as the administration keeps up the willingness to enhance the Midd experience shown during our first meeting."

Still, with the growing trend of social events being planned and thrown by the Commons. It remains to be seen whether the efforts of this Task Force will be fruitful or whether they will have been made in vain.

ADP splits from national chapter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

bury chapter."

Stanton noted that unlike fraternities or sororities at other institutions, Middlebury offers a unique coverage for its social houses. "The College owns and maintains the house in which the members live. This is different than most other schools, where students live off campus and own their own houses. Since we are already covered by the College's policy, we felt it to be an unnecessary additional cost to sign onto the proposed policy," he said.

Since Delta House members expressed discontent with this seemingly useless fee, the proposal of a split was introduced and consequently implemented. According to former Delta House president Michael Hannigan '06, "Essentially the choice was economic — it was costing the house more and more money every year and the national chapter was giving us very little, if any, reward for that money. The benefits were clearly not outweighing the monetary costs."

Some effort was made to discuss with the College and the national organization possible alternatives, but Delta House members found these discussions unproductive. While there was some dissention in the house about the split, Hannigan's view of the cost and benefits seems to have become the general consensus, as the house voted in support of the split and offered its withdrawal from the national chapter. The organization found some resistance from the national society because it was previously the largest chapter of Alpha Delta Phi, but the group made the split anyway.

Aside from the renaming, the institutional changes that have resulted for the Delta House are mostly visible only to those directly involved with the organization. Stanton said that the change "has important implications for the new Delta House. The national chapter of Alpha Delta Phi prevents us from using any other trademarks of their organization, including the name 'ADP' or Alpha Delta Phi. As a result, we have had to change our rush and pledge processes and many of the other traditions originating from our national affiliation."

Courtesy

Current President Brendan Parnell '06 says this created a great opportunity for the House to form its own new traditions. The dues for house members have been reduced by nearly 50 percent, and all of that money is controlled by the House itself. According to Parnell, the relationship between The Delta House and the College has remained the same throughout the process, and so has the spirit of the organization: "The vision, morals and direction of the house never wavered, and the most difficult part of the shift was remembering to call it the new name."

public safety log

APRIL 8, 2004 TO APRIL 11, 2004

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
3/28/06	3:15 p.m.	Burglary	Faculty Office	Athletics Complex	No Suspects
3/29/06	5:00 p.m.	Theft	Sports Equipment	Bubble	No Suspects
3/29/06	10:13 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
3/30/06	11:06 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
3/30/06	11:47 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
3/31/06	11:31 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Outside	Referred to Commons Dean
3/31/06	1:06 a.m.	Intoxicated Person	N/A	Pearsons	Porter Hospital
3/31/06	10:20 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Allen Hall	Referred to Commons Dean
3/31/06	1:17 a.m.	Vandalism	Wooden Chairs	Coffrin	No Suspects
3/31/06	11:30 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Fletcher	Referred to Commons Dean
3/31/06	11:29 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Atwater	Referred to Commons Dean
3/31/06	11:37 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Atwater	Referred to Commons Dean
3/31/06	11:45 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Prescott (ADP)	Referred to Commons Dean
3/31/06	11:55 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Prescott (ADP)	Referred to Commons Dean
4/1/06	12:00 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Fletcher	Referred to Commons Dean
4/1/06	7:30 a.m.	Theft	Purse	Kelly	Property Recovered
4/1/06	10:10 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Brackett (Tavern)	Referred to Commons Dean
4/1/06	11:22 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Atwater	Referred to Commons Dean
4/1/06	10:35 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Hepburn	Referred to Commons Dean
4/1/06	10:30 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Hepburn	Referred to Commons Dean
4/1/06	9:40 p.m.	Collision	Hit and Run	Ridgeline Road	No Suspects
4/1/06	10:15 p.m.	Drug Violation	Marijuana	Hadley	Referred to Commons Dean
4/1/06	10:25 p.m.	Vandalism	Exit Sign	Ross	No Suspects
4/1/06	1:56 a.m.	Vandalism	Light	Hadley	No Suspects
4/2/06	3:32 a.m.	Intoxicated Person	Student	Gifford	Referred to Commons Dean
4/2/06	12:20 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	College Street	Referred to Commons Dean
4/2/06	12:21 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	College Street	Referred to Commons Dean
4/2/06	Unknown	Vandalism	Bike Rack	Atwater	No Suspects
4/2/06	3:10 a.m.	Intoxicated Person	Student	Milliken	MPD

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY LISIE MEHLMAN

Top-tier colleges increase aid for incoming students

There now exists a veritable competition among Ivy League colleges to attract low- and middle- income students by offering the most appealing and comprehensive financial aid packages. President of Harvard University, Lawrence H. Summers, explained in a public statement that "there is no more important mission for Harvard and higher education than promoting equality of opportunity for all."

Toward this end, the University has recently amended its policy of refusing to ask parents who earned less than $40,000 a year to contribute funds for the cost of tuition. Now, that figure has been pushed back to $60,000. While students are expected to hold jobs and contribute money toward payments, this augmentation of financial aid is intended to show middle class families that providing their children with an Harvard education is in no way impossible.

This change in policy has been preceded by similar efforts at other top-tier institutions to make their schools more accessible to a wider population of students. In 1998, Princeton began replacing loans with grants for students from families whose annual income fell below $46,500. In 2001, in the most radical move yet, it extended that policy to all undergraduates. In 2004, Brown followed suit and a $100 million donation allowed it, too, to replace loans with grants for 135 students.

Within the last month, MIT, Yale and Stanford have all announced the implementation of financial aid plans quite similar to those already in place elsewhere.

— The New York Times

More international students apply to U.S. grad schools

A recent study by the Council of Graduate Schools, a Washington D.C.-based group that seeks to advance graduate education issues, discovered that the number of graduate applications submitted by international students has increased by 11 percent from 2005 to 2006. This sharp increase is the first in two years. Following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, international student enrollment in graduate programs had significantly declined.

After the terrorist attacks, the government tightened visa regulations and began to require that all students applying for visas be interviewed in person. This resulted in a great deal of back logs.

Another reason for the lack of increase in applications submitted to U.S. graduate schools by international students is the increased competition that graduate programs at schools in New Zealand, Australia and England present.

David Wilson, associate dean and director of the graduate school at Southern Illinois University explained that universities throughout the nation have increased their recruiting of international students to combat this trend. He also said that the high cost of living in places like England has once again made attending graduate school in the U.S. an appealing and affordable option. Perhaps more importantly, international students are reevaluating how they might be accepted at schools in America.

— Daily Egyptian

localnews

Spring just got a little bit sweeter

Warm days mean sunshine and sweetness for maple industry

By Caitlyn Olson
Staff Writer

Washington has its apples, Wisconsin has its cheese and Vermont has, of course, its maple syrup. This state is the biggest source of maple syrup in the United States, home to approximately 2000 producers, all of whom have been hard at work during these first few weeks of warm weather.

Sugaring is a relatively straightforward process: harvest the sap from maple trees and remove the water to concentrate it into syrup. Naturally, techniques have modernized over the years and vary from farm to farm, but collection basically involves a taphole drilled into the tree, through which the sap passes into either a bucket or enters a system of tubes. Farmers then transfer it to the sugarhouse and boil it down into syrup using heated metal pans called evaporators, while emitting the huge amounts of steam that inform passersby that the operation is up and running. The concentration is dramatic: for every 40 gallons of sap going in, only one gallon of syrup comes out.

There is nothing as relaxing as sitting in our steamy sugarhouse, reading a book and watching the sap boil into syrup.

—Haik Kavookjian '09.5

Before the product can be packaged, labeled and delivered, though, the manufacturer must carefully test it for taste, density and color. Vermont has a strict set of laws regarding its maple sugar production that include a prohibition on preservatives and detailed guidelines of the four different categories, or grades.

Grades range from the lightly-colored and delicately-flavored "Vermont Fancy" to the dark and robust "Grade B." Which describe the point in the season from which the syrup comes (earlier for Fancy and later for B), preference for one over the other is purely personal.

Sue Folino is a fan of Medium and Dark Amber, the two middle grades, and her opinion ought to count for something, since she and her husband, Dave Folino, run Vermont's largest certified organic maple farm. Located near the town of Starksboro, Hillsboro Sugarworks sits on 350 acres of land and comprises 14,400 tapholes. It is a young business — only two years old — although Dave has been sugaring since 1979.

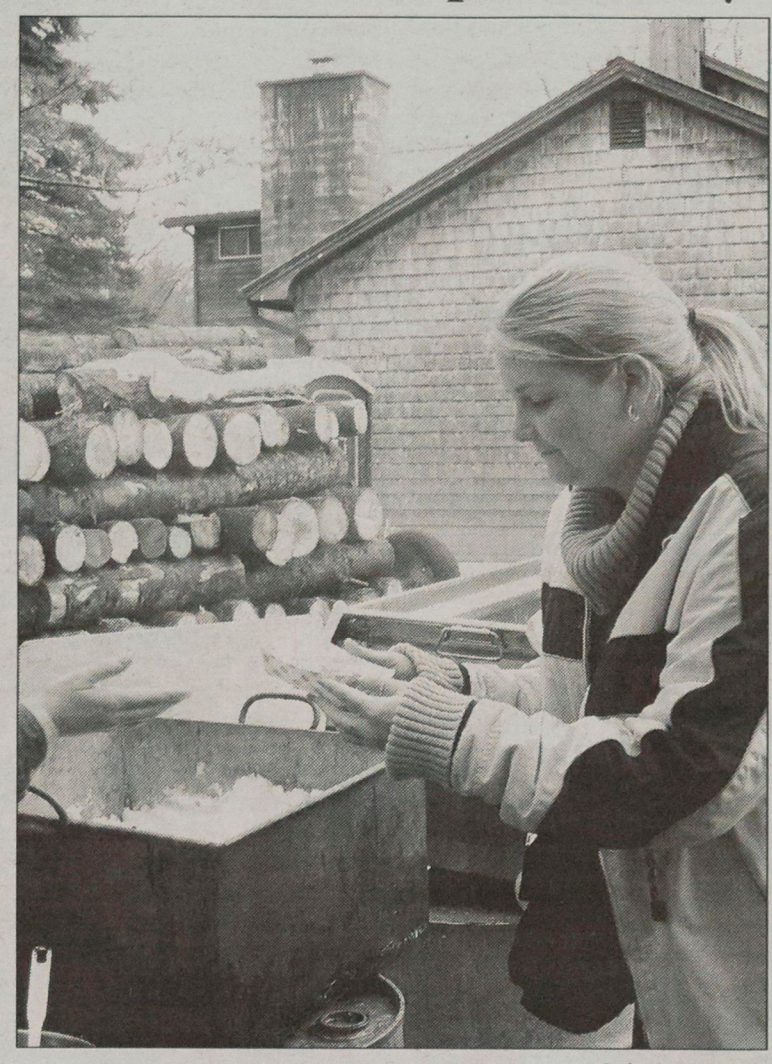
The couple decided to enter the industry full-time when the opportunity arose to purchase a substantial piece of land. Their customers are primarily whole-sale accounts, including natural food stores, restaurants and Middlebury College. Costs are minimized as the couple run the entire business themselves, with Sue taking care of marketing matters and Dave tromping around in the woods looking after tree health and wood maintenance.

They work hard to make sugaring their primary source of income, but Sue reports satisfaction with the new routine: "The lifestyle, just being outdoors and having such flexibility in our schedules, is really great."

Although the business occupies them year-round, the off-season production and upkeep cannot compare with the intensity of the harvest that takes place these first few warm weeks in spring. Sugaring in Vermont typically lasts around six weeks, beginning in early March when the alternation between freezing and thawing causes the sap to flow. This winter, however, was unusually warm, and some farmers made the decision to tap early and begin boiling in January. The Folinos opted to wait until the normal starting time and have been happy thus far with their results.

Since a good-sized crop for Hillsboro Sugarworks is around 500 gallons, technology plays an important role in its sugaring process. The business is among the first in the state to use smaller, lower-impact spouts for collection and to switch to the energy-saving reverse osmosis technique within the sugarhouse. While innovations like these are more functional and environment-friendly than old practices, they do lack that certain earthiness.

"You don't get the steam, the smell, the old rustic building, the wood-stoking fire," said Sue.



Catherine J. Stevens

Refining the harvested sap through evaporation, Gerald Stevens of Thetford, Vt., examines this year's batch.

"You miss out on the traditional feel of it, but as far as efficiency and reduced oil use, these [new methods] are a good thing."

Fortunately, the Folinos have not yet been forced to turn to the harmful side of technology, pesticides. Invasions of the native forest tent caterpillar as well as the non-native Asian longhorn beetle currently represent severe threats to Vermont producers, and the only spray offered by the state is not organically certified.

Perhaps an even greater issue facing farmers, though, came not from the environment but from syrup manufacturers. Until several weeks ago, the Vermont labeling laws had allowed for large packing companies to important syrup from Canada or out-of-state, sell it under names such as "Maple Groves of Vermont" and only mention the product's true source in fine print on the back of the container. New legislation now requires that the label clearly display the origin on its front.

While industry issues like this one afflict actual sugaring businesses, they can be blissfully ignored by the countless Vermont families who engage in the tradition on a smaller scale.

Haik Kavookjian '09.5, has been sugaring with his family since 1992. They started off tapping two trees, collecting the sap in plastic milk jugs and boiling it on the stove. They now produce around five or six gallons each season that they give to friends and keep for their own consumption. Kavookjian calls the spring his favorite time of year and says he always looks forward to the harvest.

"Although maple sugaring is quite a lot of work, it is one of the most relaxing and rewarding activities I've experienced. There is nothing as relaxing as sitting in our steamy sugarhouse, reading a book and watching the sap boil into syrup. The satisfaction that comes from filling a bottle with hot syrup, right off the stove and sealing the cap tight is incredible," he said.

8
JUST A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR
TIME TO TAP INTO THE MAPLE SYRUP INDUSTRY FOR NEW SPRING SEASON

9
POWER FAILURE
NUCLEAR ENERGY CO. POWER INCREASE STARTS SLOWLY

9
A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH
TASTE OF INDIA IS ONE OF A KIND FOR GOOD FOOD AND HARMLESS PRICES

Pour some sugar on me...

The first sugarmakers were Native Americans, who called the syrup "sinzibukwud," or "sweet buds," and taught the process to the early white settlers.

Maple syrup is incapable of freezing.

It typically takes 40 years for a maple tree to grow to the 10-inch diameter required for tapping.

If done properly, tapping can occur on the same tree annually—some Vermont maples have been tapped for over 150 years.

For the health conscious: Maple syrup has the same amount of calcium as whole milk, is 100 percent fat-free, contains no preservatives and is rich in many minerals and vitamins, including potassium, iron, B2 and folic acid.

More than just pancakes: maple syrup is an excellent sweetener for all sorts of things, from coffee to ice cream to grapefruit.

Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association: http://www.vermontmaple.org/
Vermont Living: http://www.vtliving.com/maple/history.shtml

Yankee power boost hits the skids

By Katherine N. Doorley
Local News Editor

Despite continued criticism from opponents arguing that the plan is unsafe, officials at the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant have once again increased the plant's power output, this time to 110 percent of the plants capacity, which represents half of a planned production increase. This increase is part of a plan to raise the plant's power production by 20 percent, a plan that was approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and Vermont state officials in early February.

One of the terms of the uprate agreement was that plant officials would only increase power production by 5 percent of capacity at a time and that they would agree to wait at least four days between each increase in order to allow for testing and maintenance work, which will ensure the safety of the rate increase. This increase will bring the power production at the plant from 540 megawatts to 650 megawatts, and each 5 percent increase represents an additional 53 megawatts of power in the New England power grid enough electricity for 53,000 homes.

Entergy Nuclear, the company that owns Vermont Yankee, has spent a good deal of time in the past months convincing Vermonters that the proposed increase in production is safe, despite the fact that the power plant is over 30 years old. "NRC approval comes after 29 months of technical staff review. Their finding in favor of the increase was recently backed by a recommendation in January of this year from the independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, which was established by Congress to advise the NRC on matter of nuclear safety."

Despite their caution, so far the increase has not gone entirely smoothly so far. The first 5 percent increase was reached in early March; however plant officials halted further increases after machines picked up unusual vibrations coming from a key cooling component. After four weeks of repair work and tests, plant officials concluded that they steam dryer would not be damaged by the vibrations and allowed the next 5 percent increase to take place, bringing the plant to its current 110 percent level.

Vermont Yankee was designed and licensed to operate for 40 years. Hairline cracks have already appeared in the steam dryer.
—Hattie Nestel

Critics of the plan point to this incident as further proof that a production increase is far too dangerous an undertaking for a plant as old as Vermont Yankee. "Vermont Yankee was designed and licensed to operate for 40 years," said Hattie Nestel, a member of the Citizen's Awareness Network, which fights nuclear power plants. "Hairline cracks have already appeared in the steam dryer. Entergy says that the cracks have been repaired but concedes that the uprate would result in more rapid equipment corrosion, produce spent fuel at a faster rate and introduce more radiation into the atmosphere."

Vermont Yankee employees and Entergy Nuclear officials dismiss these claims, arguing that the uprate is perfectly safe and that the delayed procedure ensures that if ever the increase in power production becomes unsafe it will be stopped. Furthermore, they argue that the benefits of the uprate far outweigh any potential dangers. "This is important to Vermonters because the state will need more electricity in coming years. The uprate will supply a portion of that need with additional clear, low-cost electricity that will not require building additional power plants or the associated transmission lines."

Thus, for now, the power production increase continues despite the protests from many residents of Vermont and the New England area. However, if the plant's age continues to show during the uprate process, it remains likely that Vermont Yankee will fail to meet Entergy officials' goal of a 20 percent power increase by the beginning of the summer season.

Awarding rewarding service

Vlad Lodoaba

Smiling for the camera, the 2006 recipients of the Vermont Campus Compact Awards pose with Governor Jim Douglas. The awards reward scholarly and civic engagement, as well as excellence in teaching. Assistant Professor of Economics Jon Isham and Assistant Professor of Geography Peter Nelson received Excellence in Teaching Awards, while Erica Goodman '06 received the TD Banknorth Commitment to Service and Engagement Award for her work as co-chair ofthe Middlebury College Volunteer Service Organization. The awards were presented at the Vermont State House in Montpelier on March 30.

THE LOCAL FLAVOR

By Andrea Glaessner
Local News Editor

Sadly, Middlebury may well be one of the few college towns where the best cheap burger to be found is from McDonalds. Perhaps the demand is just not there — after all, we are known as one of America's fittest colleges. But just because we do not have a beloved cheap burger joint does not mean cheap food is nonexistant in the small, but eclectic Middlebury restaurant scene. Taste of India offers a fantastically low-budget, yet delightfully satisfying, lunch menu that beats out the $10 burger from Two Brothers any day of the week. Funny that in a rural town in America it's cheaper to dine on Saag Paneer than a cheeseburger — but Vermont is a funny place.

No worries though, there's nothing funny about the traditional Indian food at this homey, ethnic restaurant in the heart of "downtown" overlooking Otter Creek. The interior is casual and comfortable, and the service is generally just as welcoming. Sit down and order a basket of warm, fresh baked naan to munch on while you peruse the menu, which could take awhile, depending on your knowledge of Indian food. The samosas are a good way to start. These crisp turnovers stuffed with delicately spiced potatoes, peas and herbs are a wonderful appetizer, and are a perfect introduction to the meal.

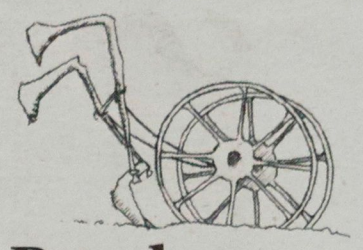
If you are new to the wildly flavorful world of Indian cooking, a safe bet is the Chicken Tikki Masala — chicken cooked in a tomato and butter sauce. The curries are also wonderful — if you have not branched out beyond traditional curry, try the Chicken or Lamb Shahi Korma. The lunch specials come with basmati rice, but if you're willing to spend a little more, ask for one of the rice specialties, like the vegetable, chicken or house special biryani. But this dish is not like fried rice — the biryani will fill you up, Think of it like a rice bowl — definitely not a side dish unless you plan on sharing.

If you are a vegetarian, don't fill up on bread before you see the menu — there's hope for you yet. India is known for its vegetarian specialties — most people from North India are vegetarians, and have perfected the craft of vegetarian cooking. The Chana Poori is a North Indian vegetarian specialty that consists of subtly spiced chickpeas tempered with ginger and garlic with poori bread rather than rice on the side. Also try the Saag Paneer – tender chunks of homemade cheese in creamed spinach and spices, or the Navratan Curry – assorted garden fresh vegetables sautéed with ginger, garlic and herbs – both are delicious and filling.

If you plan ahead, you just have to save a little room for dessert. Galub Jamun is truly a one of a kind dessert, but one you must try nonetheless. It is a delectable cinnamon flavored pastry sponge soaked in sweet honey and rosewater and sprinkled with pistachios – a treat you do not want to miss. If you want something a little more familiar, the Kheer, traditional Indian rice pudding, is also delicious.

Who wants a burger anyway, when you can have it all and then some at The Taste of India?

The Taste of India
388-4856
1 Bakery Lane



Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

Less than two weeks ago, a friend of mine from home hopped on a plane headed for Iraq. Matt is not journeying abroad to improve his Arabic skills through an academic program. Nor has he enlisted in the Peace Corps as a post-graduation experience. Matt is enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, doing his best to live up to the motto of *Semper Fidelis*. Always faithful.

Out of a high school class of '45, more than a handful of my former classmates chose military service, which is no surprise in a small town. Across the United States a striking 44 percent of military recruits come from rural areas. And recruits from American cities? Only 14 percent, making youths who live in rural areas 22 percent more likely than their urban counterparts to join the U.S. military.

Why are close to half of the newly enlisted soldiers and pilots from rural areas? In places where local jobs are as scarce as NASCAR fans and pickup trucks are plentiful, many young men and women who are financially strapped sign up to serve their country. The military offers an outlet to young people in need of a job or college money. While in high school, I saw military recruiters on a weekly basis giving out pamphlets and free pens in the cafeteria. When (and *if*) college representatives visited our rural school, they remained hidden in the guidance office, generally passing unnoticed.

In economically depressed and socially stagnant rural areas, the need for jobs or an alternative to college may outweigh the risks and hardships of going to war. The military offers young men and women something different, something as valuable to some as a glossy diploma. The friends that I have seen sharply dressed in a uniform have chosen military service as the only way out of town. My friend Matt and his buddies joined the reserves because they felt they needed something more out of their lives, something that would allow them to take as well as give. U.S. military policy and action are not always things of which I agree with, yet talking with Matt before he left, I understood what his experience would mean. He had already gained a perspective of the world and about life that I could never fully realize. In the heart of a war without a clear end and with recruitment steadily dwindling, he and the members of his company *asked* to change their reserve status and volunteered to serve their country in Iraq. As I prepare for my future by diving into books instead of onto a battlefield, I respect their sacrifice and the knowledge they acquire that no textbook could ever teach me.

Semper Fidelis. Always Faithful.

opinions

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Editorial

Task Force on Social Life shows potential

The transitory state of social life at the College is a topic of frequent informal discussion among students, but it remains to be seen whether students are actually concerned enough to take action.

That said, the first open meeting of the Student Life Task Force did produce some interesting dialogue, and the Task Force has set the ambitious goal of revitalizing what is often considered a dead social scene on campus.

Now that the Dean of Student Affairs Office has taken the initial step in assembling the Task Force, let's hope that students take matters into their own hands.

Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson has said that students are not sufficiently proactive as social event organizers. While this may be true, the College should recognize that students face a number of formidable barriers in organizing events, such as the time-intensive TIPS training and the increasingly rigid enforcement of state liquor laws. In general, students are not aware of how to go about organizing social events through the College.

The Task Force should work to identify channels through which students can pursue a more active role in brainstorming and planning social events.

Recently, the College has filtered the majority of funds and social spaces into the commons. This has resulted in some popularly attended commons events, but the student criticism *The Campus* received in the wake of Brainerd's costly pool party implies that students are still not satisfied attending commons-sponsored social events alone. The key to keeping the majority of students socially happy is to offer a variety of social options.

In this spirit, the College should not be antagonistic to the social house system. Despite some recent internal problems, the social houses can still offer parties that keep students from venturing off campus on weekends.

Students also have the opportunity to show that alcohol does not have to be the main attraction at social events by getting involved in student organizations. MCAB should be applauded for booking not one, but three big-name acts for the annual spring concert, a show that is sure to be widely attended.

Report anxiously awaited

Last September, President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz appointed a task force of 20 faculty, staff and students, known as the Human Relations Committee (HRC), to compile a comprehensive report addressing the issue of diversity at Middlebury. Following a pair of open meetings that enabled the Committee to gather suggestions from the community at large, *The Campus* reported this past November that the Committee planned to deliver its report to Liebowitz at the end of J-Term. It is now April 6 and we are still awaiting the recommendations. A small delay would have been acceptable, given the recent prominent discussions of racism on campus, but such a prolonged holdup without an explanation is unacceptable. The end of the school year is fast approaching, and for the Committee's recommendations to be thoroughly discussed and implemented, the final version must be released as soon as possible. The report's topic is too important to get lost in the year-end rush.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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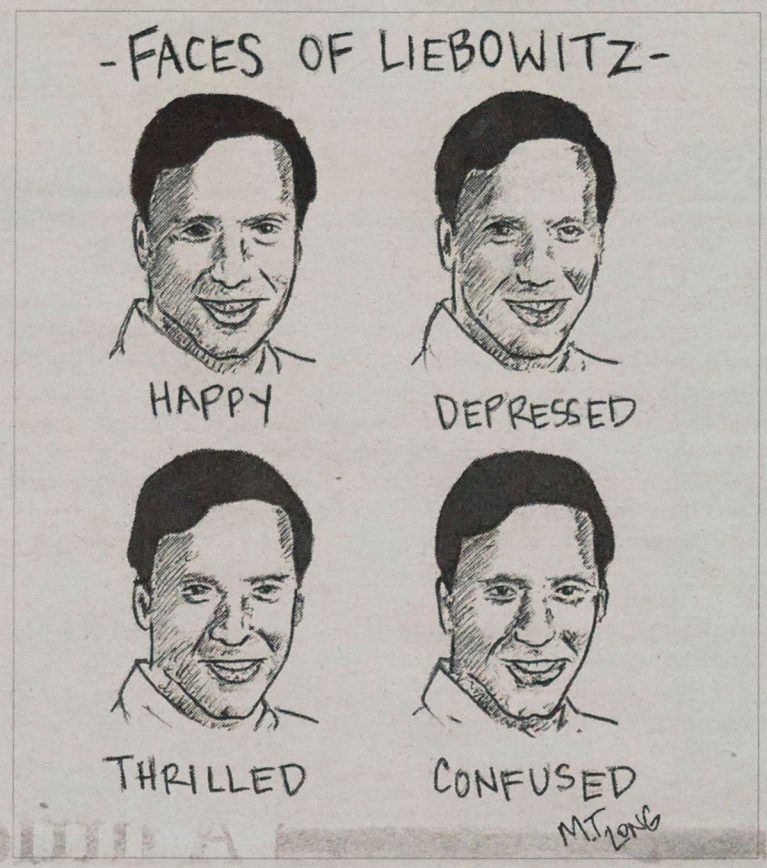
HEARD ON CAMPUS

"I THINK THAT LAST YEAR WE WERE THE LOWEST OF OUR PEERS [IN TUITION COSTS]. THIS YEAR WE'RE CLOSER TO THE NORM. IT REFLECTS THAT THE ENERGY PRICES HIT EVERYBODY."

- Michael McKenna, Vice President of Communications, in a recent interview about tuition costs.



Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Those signs are offensive and should not be tolerated. It is my opinion that most students would prefer not to be lambasted by racial and sexual epithets three times a day as they walk into the dining hall. The message on the signs is correct. Those words are offensive and they should not be tolerated, but what is the goal of plastering them all over a board where people are forced to read them over and over again?

Is it possible that there is even one student, faculty member or staff member on this campus, that does not already know those words are not tolerated? I'd say it's not possible. Even the persons involved in the event in question understood this. As for preventing those persons from verbalizing any of those words, I believe this issue should be taken up with the individuals.

Why not write a letter? As spring approaches, family members, alumni and prospective students will be visiting our campus in greater numbers. Do we really want these signs to be the focus of their visits?

Sincerely,
Matthew Amoss '07
New Orleans, La.

To the Editor:

This month, the Middlebury Open Queer Alliance (moqa) is sponsoring a series of events known as GAYpril. One such event is a student panel tonight in McCardell Bicentennial Hall 216 at 7:30 p.m. The panel is designed to address fears and curiosities about gay sex. To advertise for this event, students from moqa put up posters in the library, McCullough Student Center, Stewart, Battell, Starr, Ross, Proctor, Gifford, Hepburn and Atwater.

The posters were provocative, but not offensive, and contained statements such as, "Gay Sex: Everything they did not teach you in health class." What saddens and angers us is that people in our College community could not voice their concerns or disapproval directly to us, but instead chose to tear down our posters. After returning to the areas where posters were hung, students found that posters were ripped down, vandalized or simply gone.

We find it insulting to the College community when individuals decide to censor and degrade what appears to be free speech. If homosexuality makes you uncomfortable, then put up your own posters or come and speak directly with moqa. It is unfortunate to find homophobia present on an allegedly liberal campus. While students claim to be "open-minded," they instead deal with true bigotry in secret, without maturity. Middlebury has the potential to be a supportive community, but an underlying homophobic sentiment continues to encourage closet mentality, and this ignorance will continue to discourage the fight for diversity and acceptance.

Sincerely,
Baylie Roth '09.5
Tamara Vatnick '07

See Letters to the Editor, page 10

Eating disorders are crippling Midd

Among all mental illnesses, eating disorders have the highest mortality rate.

Middlebury College has a serious problem with eating disorders. The residential staff is quite aware of it. The custodial staff finds trashcans filled with puke. You possibly know someone who has an eating disorder, whether it be anorexia, bulimia or over-eating. If you've ever looked around campus, you know which girls are probably anorexic. If you go to the gym, you know which person has been there far too long, on one too many machines.

If you live across the hall from a bathroom — like I do — you hear people throwing up in the toilet even on weekdays.

It is ironic how Middlebury, a college focused on health and wellness, balanced lifestyles and personal awareness, allows students to slip through the cracks. More than 25 percent of college-aged women engage in bingeing and purging as a weight-management technique — Middlebury would not be spared from this statistic and probably exceeds it. Various support groups have been established on campus, but have ended because students do not wish to talk about their disordered eating. That does not mean, however that disordered eating is not present.

Eating disorders come from high-stress environments, and Middlebury is the perfect pressure cooker. With physical image such a valuable commodity on campus, along with tough class loads and extracurricular activities, students quickly become stressed.

And psychological stress often lies behind mental illnesses such as eating disorders. Though anorexia in general is characterized by rituals and the refusal to eat, the psychological aspect of anorexia addresses the perfectionist desire to control one's appearance since everything flies out of control. Bulimics also have rituals and usually gorge themselves (binge) and then purge with laxatives or self-induced vomiting, described as a symbolic process that often mirrors stuffing oneself emotionally, and then purging the emotions from one's mind.

The following statements may help identify character traits of people with eating disorders:

"Even though people tell me I'm thin, I feel fat."

"I lie about what I eat."

"I spend a lot of time daydreaming about food."

"I weigh myself several times a day."

"I exercise too much, or get too rigid about my exercise plan."

"I have taken laxatives or forced myself to vomit after eating."

"I don't think I look good in my clothes."

Eating disorders, however, are not easily diagnosed or cured. They require a multi-disciplinary approach since they combine symptoms of low self-esteem and depression and affect physical well-being as well as mental psychology. Athletes are also at risk, and female athletes may eventually suffer from the Female Athlete Triad which involves disordered eating and the loss of the menstrual period and bone density. Since the formation of bone density is laid down during college years, female athletes need to eat correctly to prevent osteoporosis and fractures that may cripple them later.

If you suspect someone of having aneating disorder, you have several options, including talking to this person or even walking him or her over to the Health Center. However, the majority of people with eating disorders have no desire to talk about their behavior and prefer relationships in which friends do not try to become involved in the details of the disorder or the recovery process. In this case, your best plan of action is to tell the dean of your commons. Deans can set a meeting with the person to "check in," and confidentiality is always respected. If you believe that someone in your hallway has an eating disorder, notify your CRA of the potential problem.

The Health Center unfortunately does not have the ability to make students go see them. However, if anyone is interested in raising awareness about eating disorders on campus, please contact me or Terry Jenny at the Health Center.

For more information about eating disorders, please consult the following Web site, http://mentahealth.about.com/od/eat.

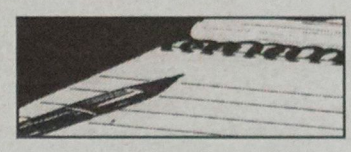
Also, please know that men are not immune to media stereotypes. Stating that eating disorders only happen in females would be hiding the whole truth of the problem:

- An estimated 10 to 15 percent of people with anorexia or bulimia are male. And among men suffering from eating disorders, 10-42 percent have identified themselves as homosexual or bisexual, which is higher than the overall base rate of homosexuality in the male population — six percent.

Newsweek recently published a lengthy article detailing the rise of eating disorders in children as young as nine years old. In a country, and a college, that puts so much pressure on image and appearance, one can never be too careful. Looking good is great, but not when it starts to control the rest of your life.

I extend my thanks to Janine Clookey, Missy Foote, the Health Center and the Counseling and Human Relations Center for their assistance in writing this article.

MICHAEL JOU '06
A FRENCH MAJOR
FROM LAKE OSWEGO, ORE.



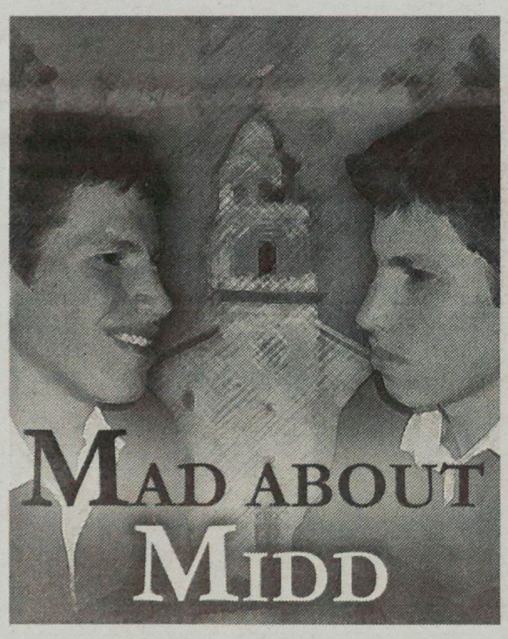
NOTES
FROM THE DESK

Despite such exceptions as Mormonism and Xenia House, humans have depended on alcohol at social engagements for thousands of years. Take wedding celebrations; do matrimonial vows make them fun? I don't think so. Or, how about your parents dinner parties; do middle-aged suburbanites really have that much hillarious stuff to laugh about? I highly doubt it.

How then does a college balance this age-old social expectation of alcohol use with laws banning underage drinking? Like many other complex issues, there must be a compromise. For Middlebury, the old social house system was just that compromise. Social house parties were moderately safe; it was hard enough to get beer that people would not become extremely intoxicated, there were plenty of people around should someone become ill, and hard liquor was conveniently absent. Now thanks to new policies that encourage parties sponsered by the commons, which mandate two forms of identification to enter the "beer garden," coupled with guest lists at social houses, underage students are increasingly obliged to do their drinking off campus. But when the law infiltrates off-campus watering holes, alcohol use is squeezed into places where abuse becomes virtually inevitable. Student drinking now increasingly manifests itself in the form of Popov shots and Pass-O-Guava chasers in places like B2South, a decidedly sad situation for all involved.

It astonishes me that the administration thinks they can eradicate underage drinking on a rural campus like ours. Whether or not Old Chapel believes in the viability of their dream, they have already raised a white flag on any type of compromise. Instead of finding a way to allow for healthy and limited drinking, they have endorsed a policy of alcoholic abstinence that may well mark Middlebury College as a sad martyr in the nationwide struggle to keep students safe from alcohol abuse. Therefore, I challenge the administration, the student body and the new task force on social life to find a new compromise — a way to get alcohol into the hands of minors in the safest possible way. Students will drink, that we can count on, but their safety in doing so lies wholly in the policies of the College. I recommend that those with power use it wisely.

Jack Lysohir
Assistant Opinions Editor



A little wishful thinking

By Dave Barker
OPINION COLUMNIST

The spring semester has a way of flying by. During those balmy few days last week when the entire campus seemed to be seized by field day frenzy, I could have sworn it was mid-May instead of late March. Given the aroma of Weber grills, I had to double-check the calendar. I realized that we are coming up on the big 5-0. That's right, just over a month and half before cuing the Dazed and Confused soundtrack. But before I finish off the last blue book, I'd like to see a few things happen.

Wouldn't it be great if, after a long day in Old Chapel, President Liebowitz took a few swings at an IM softball game? I'd like to see the creation of a comment card system in Old Chapel akin to the successful form of student-chef communication in the dining halls. Instead of writing "the balsamic vinaigrette was great!" a student could enter Old Chapel and scribble a quick note for the President: "Heard your long-ball power makes Bonds look like an equipment manager…3 p.m. down at the fields."

Speaking of Presidents, I'd like to see President Emeritus John M. McCardell Jr., and his under-age drinking research team go public and end up in the national press. And I'd like to see that national coverage pique the interest of a few political Pooh-Bahs down in D.C. A lower drinking age would reduce the dangerous, "six shots in a Battell closet" form of underage drinking.

I find it hard to find fault with the college-organized social scene. Wouldn't it be great if MCAB were this good every year? During those moments when it seems like you've been in the library longer than a first-edition collection of Frost poems, the promise of more Pub Nights, trivia nights, and a triple-billed concert makes it a little easier to get your work done.

At least once, I would like to see an "F" replace the "S" in Sunday. The best part of the seventh day shouldn't revolve around a made-to-order omellette. Maybe we should get MCAB to anoint a Sunday in April when students are told not to go to Bi Hall, but to Bristol Falls.

I'd like to see Old Chapel Road become a car-free zone so I can bomb down from Mead Chapel on my bike without tapping the breaks.

Wouldn't it be great if the next Proctor karaoke night was only open to professors, who would be judged by students: "Well, Professor__ loved the moonwalk, but why the 'C' on my midterm?"

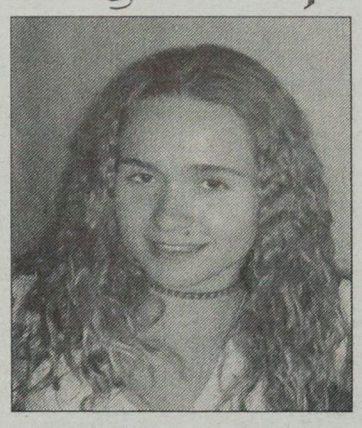
I'd like to see a room draw process that which doesn't resemble an Ultimate Fighting match.

Go ahead, accuse me of wishful thinking. One final, more realistic longing: I'd like to see my finals canceled.

The Middlebury Campus online poll

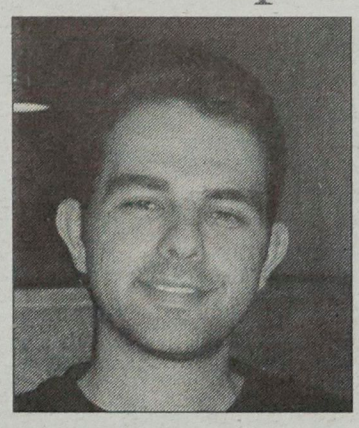
"POLITICAL CORRECTNESS SEEMS OK TO ME, I GUESS."

—JOE GIACOMELLI '08



"I FEEL LIKE WE'RE TOO POLITICALLY CORRECT."

—ASHLEY VALLE '08



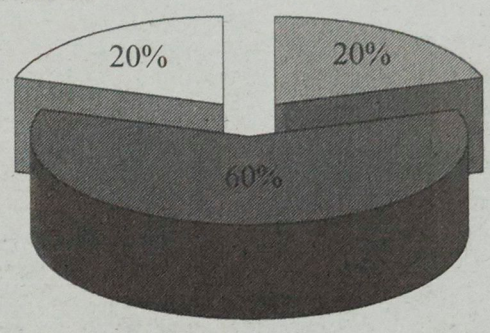
"SOMETIMES IT REACHES LEVELS OF ABSURD RIDICULOUSNESS AND VAGUE AMUSEMENT."

—PAUL DOYLE '07

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT POLITICAL CORRECTNESS AT MIDDLEBURY?

MIDD IS PERFECTLY POLITICALLY CORRECT.

MIDDLEBURY NEEDS TO BE MORE POLITICALLY CORRECT AND SOCIALLY AWARE.



THE CAMPUS IS TOO P.C. CONSCIOUS—OWING IN PART TO A LACK OF DIVERSITY.

Results based on 40 responses collected between March 29 and April 4 at www.middlebury campus.com

NEXT WEEK'S POLL QUESTION: WAS MIDDLEBURY YOUR TOP CHOICE WHEN YOU APPLIED TO COLLEGE?

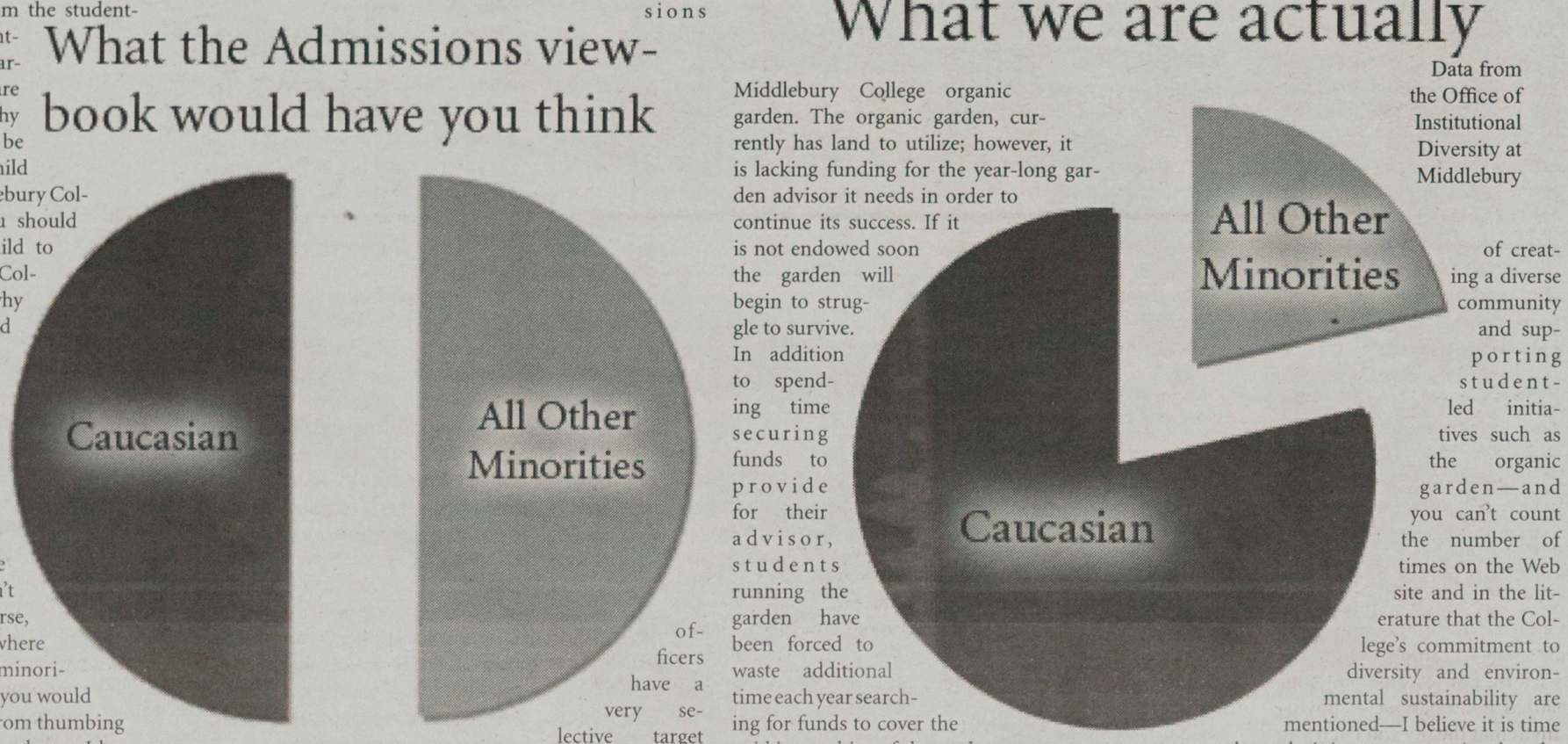
False promises from Middlebury College

In the College brochures and magazines that are distributed to parents, alumni and prospective students there are a myriad of photographs that picture "diverse" students next to white ones. On other pages there are pictures of students with baskets full of fresh vegetables from the student-started, student-run organic garden. These are the reasons why you should be proud your child goes to Middlebury College, why you should send your child to Middlebury College, or why you should donate more money to Middlebury College.

But if you look around here on campus, you will see that we aren't really that diverse, or at least nowhere near the 1:1, minority: white ratio you would expect to see from thumbing through the brochures. I have even heard of photographers flagging down a non-white student on campus to try to feature him or her in a similar photograph, and when she said she was too busy, she was then asked if there were any "diverse students" on her hall whom they could photograph. Middlebury College we are mostly a liberal, rich, white school. I rarely hear a conservative opinion in my classes, even though I would greatly appreciate both sides to any issue. While the College would seem to think that skin color is the only important part of diversity judging by the photographs and brochures, socio-economic and geographic background are important components of diversity as well. Even though Middlebury College advertises a need-blind admission process, supposedly to attract a diverse socioeconomic student body, admissions officers have a very selective target audience, that mirrors rather closely our student body. They do this so that the College won't have to provide large amounts of financial aid to qualified low-income applicants, because then they would have to change the need-blind policy. Even the financial aid that is offered to lower-income students probably isn't enough to entice many of them away from local state schools that are incredibly cheaper than Middlebury College. A large portion of the students of color are not even a result of the financial aid office, but are international students or are on independent scholarships.

Just as Middlebury College does not support socio-economic, ideological or racial diversity as much as it boasts, neither does it actively support many student-led initiatives such as the Middlebury College organic garden. The organic garden, currently has land to utilize; however, it is lacking funding for the year-long garden advisor it needs in order to continue its success. If it is not endowed soon the garden will begin to struggle to survive. In addition to spending time securing funds to provide for their advisor, students running the garden have been forced to waste additional time each year searching for funds to cover the paid internships of the students who devote their summers to providing local organic food to the dining halls and local community, and to improving the garden. Students devoted to organic gardening, uniting the College on the Hill with the local community and providing the College's clearest connection to the agricultural heritage of the incredibly fertile Champlain Valley should not be spending the majority of their time fund raising. The College administrators should step up and support this student-led initiative which is so highly-touted in its literature as a symbol of our environmental leadership.

If Middlebury College is truly in support of creating a diverse community and supporting student-led initiatives such as the organic garden—and you can't count the number of times on the Web site and in the literature that the College's commitment to diversity and environmental sustainability are mentioned—I believe it is time that administrators consciously take action to drastically improve financial aid and recruitment, endow the organic garden and take note of the other amazing student-led programs and initiatives on campus that lack funding. Middlebury College cannot continue to portray itself as something it is not, leading everybody on with its incredibly disheartening false promises.


What the Admissions viewbook would have you think
Caucasian
All Other Minorities
What we are actually
All Other Minorities
Caucasian
Data from the Office of Institutional Diversity at Middlebury

AUSTEN LEVIHN-COON '07
AN INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR
FROM AUSTIN, TEXAS

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Isn't it interesting that Dave Barker pines "why can't Middlebury's ambitious and ingenious scholars scheme up pranks worthy of those at a college like MIT?" If his intent was to lead by example he failed miserably. There is nothing funny about mocking the sanitary practices of Middlebury Dining Services — especially when there is no basis for the joke. In addition, there was no moment of revelation where everyone realizes that a joke is being played — a critical element in a good April Fool's joke. You have a good point, Dave — your "prank" is not worthy of a college like Middlebury or MIT. Perhaps you could submit it to the University of Phoenix's Online degree program.

Sincerely,
John Nordmeyer
Dining Services

To the Editor:

Recently ["Speaker Does not Reflect Midd Values'" *Campus*, March 30], some of my close friends criticized the invitation to Ann Veneman. They do not "mean to suggest that there is nothing to admire in her record, or that other colleges and universities would not find her an inspirational commencement speaker." However, commencement "should celebrate better [Middlebury's] particular values."

I question two points:

1. They attack her "long association" with "genetically modified foods." Are GMOs the devil's work? Consider:

a. GMO-engineered vitamins in rice can reduce blindness in developing countries.

b. Herbicide-resistant corn allows the use of Roundup to control weeds. The alternative, tilling, contributes to erosion.

c. Monsanto is working on soybeans with enhanced omega-3.

Move over Ben and Jerry's. You may be replaced as Vermont's hero (fat chance!). You create heart attacks; Monsanto may reduce them.

2. They attack Veneman's advocacy "of unfettered trade" and participation in GATT negotiations. This may suggest that GATT is so evil that our graduates should not be exposed to a contrary view. This is astonishing.

Since 1950, freer trade has contributed to the greatest movement out of poverty in history. Doubters might compare the present Chinese economy with that in the closed Maoist period. Or South Korea with the North. Of course, GATT is not beyond reproach; international agreements involve compromises.

Should we invite only speakers who reinforce our existing views? Should our graduates venture forth, holding firm to the One Right Way of Thinking? Nothing during my delightful years here suggested that this represents Middlebury Values.

Sincerely,
Paul Wonnacott
Alan Holmes
Visiting Professor of Economics, 1994-2000.

B*o/o#! N%#*@! K*%! Wh%*#! Bad words?

The SGA Diversity Committee recently sponsored a forum on diversity which included placing large pieces of plywood covered in derogatory words outside the dining halls. As written on the plywood, these are "words we do not tolerate at Middlebury." This emphasis on words is misleading and warrants discussion.

It is the sentiment with which a word is expressed, not the word itself, that is important. Take the word "boy." Innocuous in most individuals' lexicons, it was once commonly used to pejoratively refer to adult black males. Listing all the words that could be used to discriminate or subjugate would take far more space than the entrances of Proctor, Ross and Atwater provide — and would serve little purpose.

There are certain words that, due to their historical roles, we should all be wary of using colloquially. This respectful caution applies, to a lesser degree, to unattractive slang. However, if you happen to hear a derogatory word while walking down your dorm hallway, your first reaction should be inquisitive, not indignant. Without knowing a word's context, you cannot properly ascertain the speaker's intent.

The alternative is a knee-jerk indignancy, which quickly leads to a hypersensitive environment detrimental to open discussion. Such an environment would not mesh with Middlebury's passionate and outspoken student body.

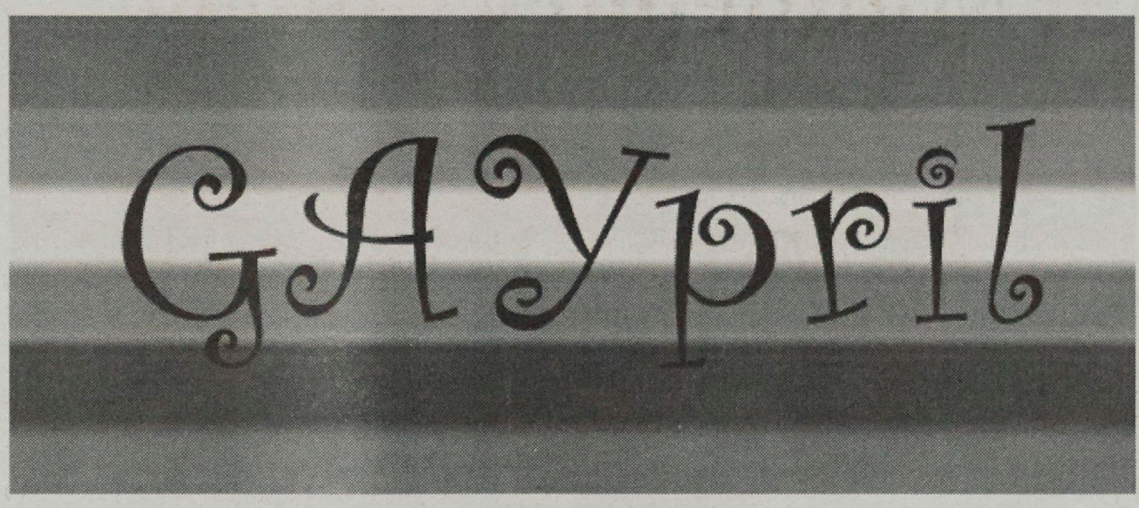
Still, I have heard complaints from those who feel they must be overly cautious when discussing matters of diversity for fear of being labeled negatively. From the other perspective, in such discussions I have observed individuals bombastically and irrationally attack perfectly germane comments as being discriminatory. Open discourse requires a willingness to grant the benefit of the doubt and listen. Otherwise the student body will be perpetually walking on eggshells.

There is a related, and far more pernicious, danger to creating such a hypersensitive climate. While curtailing overt discrimination, it does little to foster true acceptance. Middlebury brings together people of many different racial, ethnic, cultural, ideological and spiritual backgrounds. It is understandable that exposure to foreign backgrounds may cause initial discomfort. We must allow ourselves the time to learn from each other.

I have used the Diversity Committee's event as a starting-point for a larger discussion. As I understand it, their event was less about banning words than stating that Middlebury does not tolerate sexism, homophobia, racism or any other examples of subjugation. Nevertheless, as a symbol these poster boards send the wrong message. We cannot eliminate prejudice in the mind simply by outlawing it on our campus.

Striving for diversity in all its forms is a constant process. Diversity Committee initiatives such as discussions with President Liebowitz are important aspects of this ongoing mission. Most crucial, however, is that students give each other the chance to understand one another. Then, an only then, will our College be the community wto which we all aspire.

MAX NARDINI '08
A POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR
FROM NEW YORK, N.Y.



Come out! Get educated!

COME OUT! If you don't come out you've absorbed the message of those who hate us and you're doing exactly what they want you to do. Stop helping the homophobes! There's absolutely no excuse for anyone to be in the closet at Middlebury in 2006. You are protected by College policy, state law and an overwhelmingly supportive faculty, staff and student body. The only reason not to come out is internalized homophobia — buying the myth that the sky will fall if you come out. Most of these excuses are based on myth; your parents won't disown you and it won't kill your grandmother. Really, it won't. If you don't come out, on the other hand, it may very well kill you; those on the DL are much more likely to have unsafe sex. Closeted men are also much more likely to be involved in harassment (see the mayor of Spokane or the Catholic priests' scandal), so it's in society's interests for everyone to be out.

I'm also tired of the "post-gay and avoiding labels" line. It's really just one more lame excuse to stay in the closet and buy into homophobia. You're not challenging the system, you're just hiding. But even coming out is only the first step — it's great, but it's hardly the great accomplishment it used to be. It took balls to come out at Middlebury in the 60s and even in the 80s. Not now. Being out should be taken for granted.

GET EDUCATED! Once you're out, learn what being gay means. Learn some history. Read a book. There's no need for each new generation to reinvent the wheel. African-American students learn from their families what to expect. They also learn who Martin Luther King, Jr., was, who Rosa Parks was, who Frederick Douglass was, who got them where they are today. How many Middlebury students learned gay history from their parents? Maybe they took it in high school? How many Middlebury gay students know Harry Hay, Frank Kameny or even Larry Kramer before last month? The Daughters of Bilitis? What happened at Stonewall?

> Do something; write a letter, put on a play, find a vaccine, but do something!

If you're one of our language or International Studies students, do you know the gay culture of the country you study? Do gay students of French know Gide, Genet, Proust? Do gay German students learn about Hirschfeld and the gay rights movement? Do gay students of Spanish read Arenas and Puig and know all the films of Almodovar? These are things you could be learning about in college — if they're not taught, find out why. If there are courses, take them. Read some gay novels. At the very least, read the Advocate online.

DO SOMETHING! Once you've learned something from history and literature, do something with your knowledge. The world we live in (even Middlebury and Vermont) needs work. We're still second-class citizens here: we're not allowed to apply the sacred words "marriage" and "divorce" to our unions. At 20 you may think this is not important, but consider this: Your girlfriend goes off to Italy or Russia and falls in love with a boy. She invites him here on a special visa; they get married; he gets citizenship; they stay together. If a boy from the States falls in love with a boy abroad, forget it. Why doesn't this annoy you? Just wait till it happens.

How about "Don't Ask, Don't Tell?" Our brilliant gay language students (trust me, there are more than one or two) are automatically disqualified. Does this policy serve anyone? Do you feel safer knowing that the military now takes high school dropouts with criminal records, but certainly not smart Middlebury language grads who happen to be gay. This absurd policy generated a protest of perhaps 10 students last year.

AIDS is still a problem too, though you could always follow the official U.S. policy and choose abstinence while you wait for marriage to happen.

Do something: write a letter, put on a play, find a vaccine, but do something!

KEVIN MOSS
PROFESSOR OF RUSSIAN

Open your ears

First, we had one of the most sought-after public speakers alive, former mayor of the most populous city in the country and potential presidential candidate with definite cross-party appeal. Now we have an accomplished woman, former cabinet-level official and current director of an organization that has the primary goal of protecting children around the world. What flunky are we going to pick next, Chomsky (cue applause)? The current president (cue boos)?

It doesn't matter whether it is for commencement or not — Ari Fleischer seemed to get much the same treatment here as Rudi Giuliani — the problem is the same in both cases and it is the biggest problem in American politics today: nobody listens. Nobody on either side of any contentious issue listens to the other because both sides already believe they know what is "right." Conservatives and liberals — in whose number I count myself — are guilty to equal degrees. At Middlebury, there is more of the latter than the former and, as a result, knee-jerk liberalism here is rampant and self-reinforcing. In spite of all our claims of tolerance and free thought, the environment here is incredibly stifling for divergent political and social viewpoints.

We don't have to look far to see how this plays out on campus. There is outrage any time a speaker comes along and it does not seem like that person is going to be telling the audience what it wants to hear. Then again, what is it that the audience wants to hear in the first place? Two opinions pieces in last week's *Campus* attack the selection of Ann Veneman because she does not reflect the values of Middlebury College. What, precisely, are these values? Are they pro-choice, pro-environment, in favor of small businesses and small farms and against large corporations and GMOs, as I am told? Or do they stem from the massive tuition dollars coming from parents' jobs at big corporations? Perhaps from the secret endowment investment portfolio? Maybe from the grads heading to big city firms after getting degrees? Or the fact that the vast majority of the food we eat in our dorm rooms and dining halls is from large-scale, non-organic, GMO-filled sources? Like everyone else, we take a stand on "our values" (whatever those are) only when it is most convenient.

These facts and my own sentiments, along with those of a number of other students, seriously conflict with the values that I am told by the faculty and students writing in last week's *Campus* are the core of this College. Last time I checked, I was still paying tuition and going to class. I am a part of this institution as well. Let's have an agreement; you don't speak for me, I won't speak for you and we'll both listen to each other.

Of course, I recognize that Middlebury, on the whole, is at the left of much of the country. But denying the legitimacy of viewpoints coming from much of our own country does no service to any worthwhile cause. It is already a prevailing opinion that academics and students alike at institutions like Middlebury are out of touch with the nation; let us not give any more credence to this opinion by insulating ourselves even more. I have little interest in hearing a speech that is simply going to reinforce my own opinions or, as in the case of many high profile speakers, mail in the effort by giving a canned speech that thousands have already heard.

As for the argument that somehow Veneman is not prestigious enough for Middlebury, I can only reiterate the extent of her achievements and remind everyone that our reputation exists only among a small number of people in a small geographic area. If we are supposed to have a speaker commensurate with our status, I think we may have overstepped our bounds already. I am more interested in hearing a memorable and thought-provoking speech than I am in having the most recognizable name we can get by writing a bigger check.

I admit that I was slightly disappointed with Veneman's selection, but I believe that the exaggerated reaction that many students and faculty have had to this issue is driven by an inflated sense of self-importance and an utter lack of desire to hear out and seriously consider positions that may be contrary to their own. This problem of intellectual openness has become widespread; it is far more ubiquitous than any core values this College supposedly represents.

JAMES ROGERS '04
A GEOGRAPHY MAJOR
FROM MOUNTAIN LAKES, N.J.

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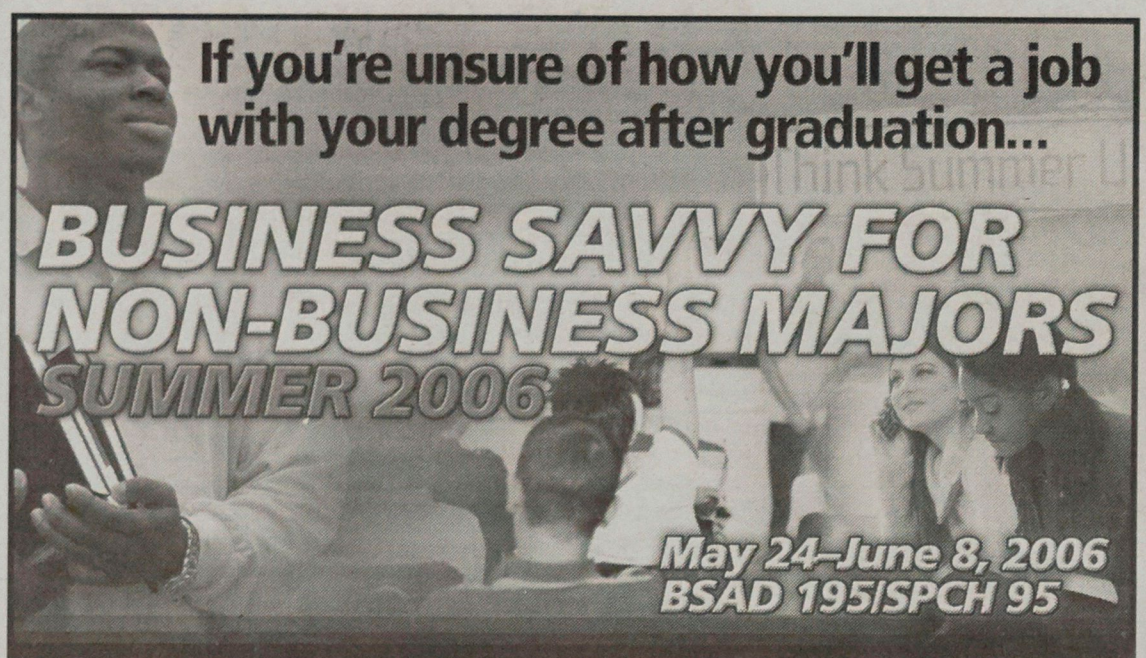
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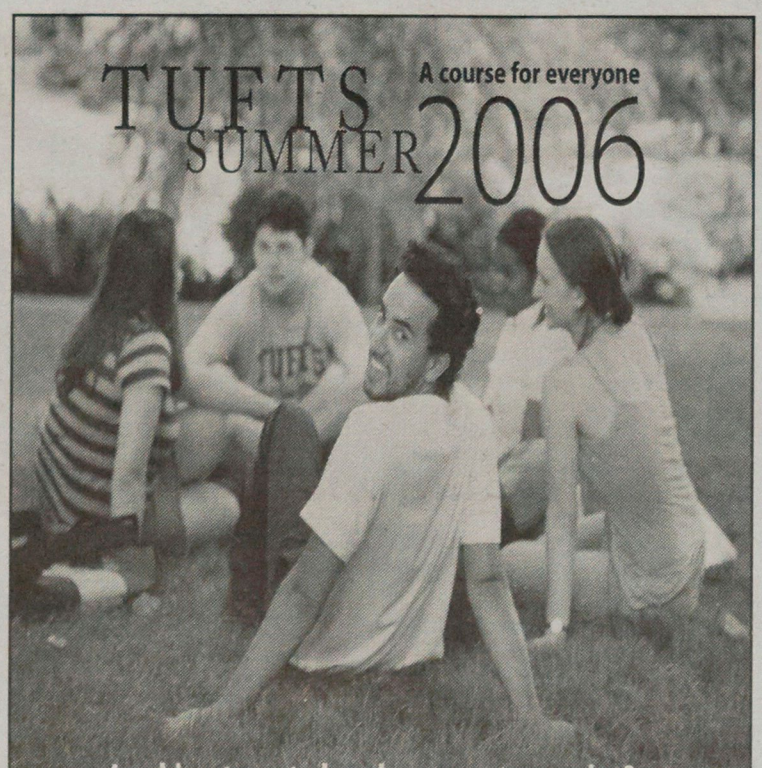

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Summer programs look over the horizon

As Middlebury ushers in a new era of preparing for the future, the need to take into account all aspects of the College becomes all the more acute. One oft-overlooked element of the College's operations that has received renewed interest thanks to the Strategic Planning Process is the summer programs at Middlebury, which often rival the undergraduate program in terms of quality and educational innovation. Together, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Bread Loaf School of English and the Language Schools comprise a formidable trio of pedagogic excellence.

Bread Loaf Writers' Conference

This year the 81st Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the oldest of its kind in the nation, will take place from Aug. 16-27. Director of the Conference Michael Collier said, "The conference will follow the form it has taken for the last decade, which includes small workshops that meet frequently." He also emphasized that this strategy allows the faculty to focus mainly on the participants of the program. Collier is the acting director of the conference, author of five books of poems, a Pushcart Prize winner, and was Poet Laureate of Maryland from 2001-2004.

Since 1996, the Writers' Conference has seen a 250 percent increase in the number of applicants from 600 to approximately 1500 people. Despite the significant rise in applicants, the number of students and faculty participating in the conference has risen only slightly, from 225 to 250. Even though the programs are mainly for graduate students, Middlebury does accept several Middlebury undergraduates into the program.

The conference boasts the participation of many distinguished writers in the areas of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, all of whom will be teaching the small workshops at Middlebury's Bread Loaf campus. Each faculty member has an extensive background in writing. Ted Conover, for example, is a winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for nonfiction, as well as a Pulitzer Prize finalist. Linda Beards, author of seven collections of poetry, including "Flights of the Harvest Mare" and "The Ghost Trio," has received four Pushcart Prizes and a variety of fellowships, including one from the Guggenheim Foundation. Ursula Hegi, another professor, is the author of six works of fiction, including "Stones from the River," a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award. They join a number of other distinguished writers participating in this year's conference.

Bread Loaf School of English

The Bread Loaf campus in Ripton is also the site of the Bread Loaf School of English. The Bread Loaf School of English opened in 1920 and offers graduate courses in literature for participating students.

This year, a fifth Bread Loaf campus will open at the University of North Carolina in Asheville. After the opening of this campus, there will be a Bread Loaf campus located in each of the four quadrants of the United States. The other campuses are located in Juneau, Alaska; Santa Fe, N.M. and Oxford, England. Assistant Director of Bread Loaf School of English Admissions Sandy Legault, said that after opening Bread Loaf-Asheville, "We hope that Bread Loaf will be more convenient and more attractive to students in the South."

The most recent Bread Loaf campus opened before Asheville was located in Guadalajara, Mexico. This campus was discontinued due to logistical reasons. Legault said they would like to find "a better fit for Bread Loaf, probably in another Mexican city."

In addition to Bread Loaf's growth, the program is looking inward to improve the original campus on Bread Loaf Mountain. Administrators are working with Internet and Technology Services to enable wireless internet for students. This, Legault said, "is a huge improvement." Legault also said that renovations of several buildings are taking place.

Enrollments for the Bread Loaf School of English have remained relatively steady in recent years. About 250 students enroll each year, making it the largest graduate English program in the country. It continues to be a selective graduate option for many students throughout the United States and abroad.

Language Schools

The Bread Loaf campus is not the only active area of Middlebury during the summer. The main campus hosts Middlebury's numerous language programs. Summer Language Schools at Middlebury opened in 1915 with the introduction of the German School. Since then, the program has grown to include Arabic, Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Portuguese was the most recent addition, added in 2003.

The prospect of more language schools at Middlebury has been discussed in recent years. Directors of the program have considered many different languages for different reasons. Persian, Korean, Hebrew and Turkish are among the languages being considered, although new programs are not at the top of the agenda. Dean of Language Schools and Schools Abroad Michael Geisler said, "We are currently working at full capacity during the summer, with 1,300 students and faculty. This number may seem low, but you have to consider the 160-200 other student workers and researchers on campus." Housing for all of these people becomes an issue, especially since Language School faculty and families are also housed on campus.

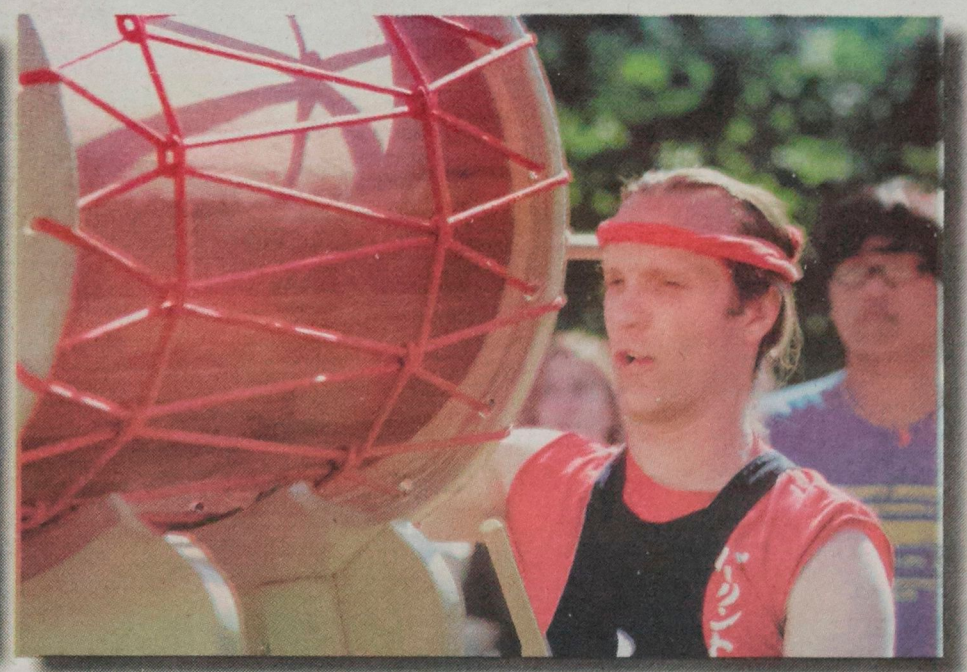
Currently, the Middlebury Language Schools are most focused on improving the language programs already in existence. For example, one such program is the International Cultural Studies Language Series, in which the entire community is invited to attend. In order to maintain the trademarked Language Pledge to speak only the language of the school, speakers are asked to do two presentations. The first is a main presentation in English for the community and a select number of graduate students. The second is in a foreign language and designed for the summer school students. "This approach allows the series to benefit both students, as well as the rest of the community," said Geisler.

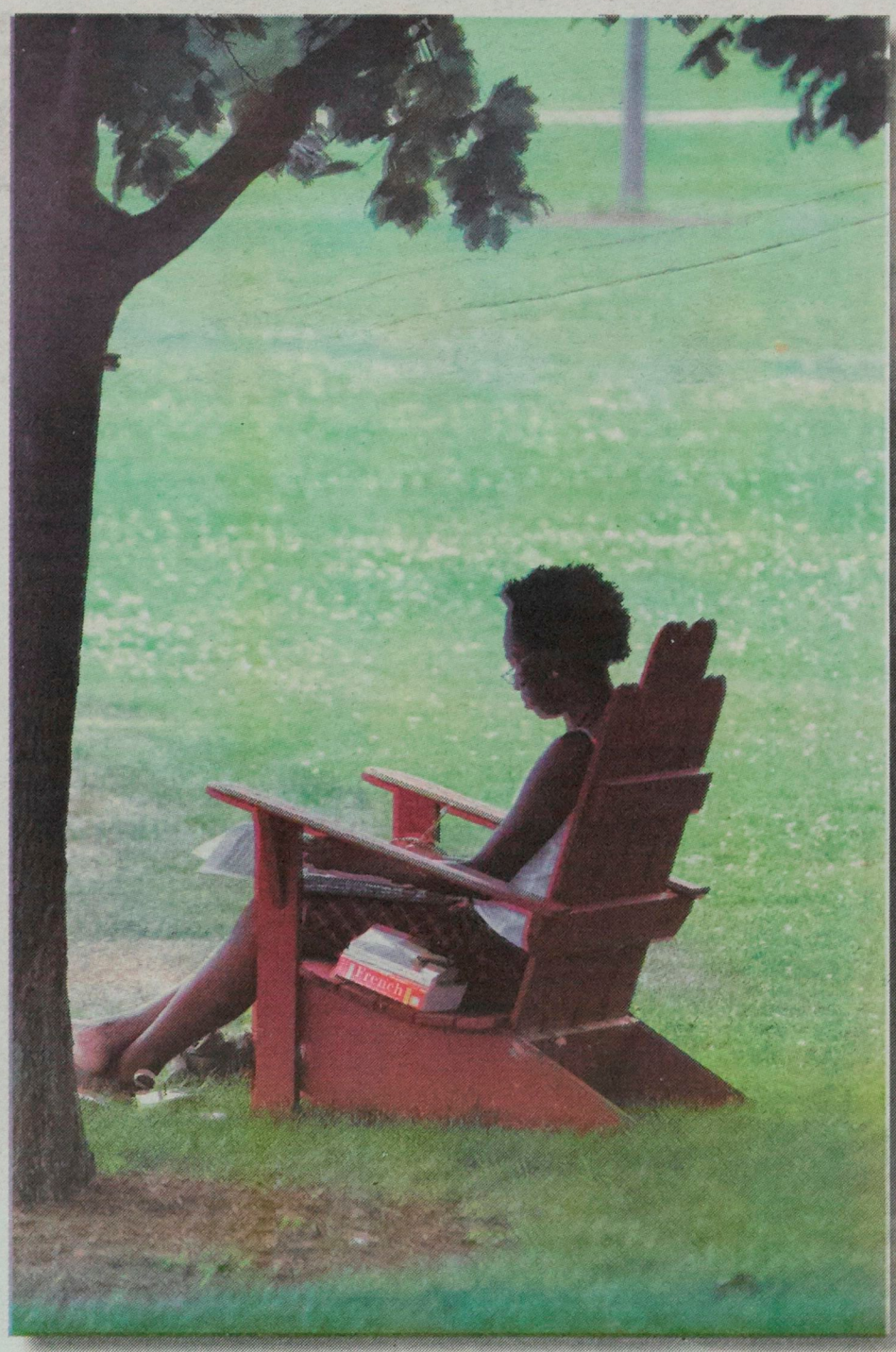
Middlebury students make up about 10 percent of the students enrolled at the Language Schools; however, applications come from all over. Last year, 4,391 people inquired about the Language Schools at Middlebury. According to Geisler, "Sometimes there are certain factors that keep people from applying, even though they want to attend. The program is expensive and it is also selective." Last year, 1,303 students enrolled, out of 2,297 applicants. Geisler also said that he believes they would see even more applicants if more students could afford to come. Tuition for the Language Schools ranges from $5,700 to $7,700, depending on whether a six-, seven- or nine-week program is desired.

The recent affiliation of the Monterey Institute of International Studies with Middlebury has been a concern for some who argue that Monterey summer programs draw students away from Middlebury language programs and vice versa. Geisler admitted that, "At first I asked the question, 'Have we in fact affiliated ourselves with the competition?'" After some consideration, Geisler said, "Middlebury language programs really only lose a total of one to three students a year to Monterey." He said that the two schools' programs are very different. Middlebury has a total immersion program in which all areas of life involve the foreign language. Monterey is an intensive language program, but they do not practice the same "total immersion" strategy. Geisler said, "It's like comparing apples and oranges. It all depends on what the student wants. A student applying to Middlebury language programs usually doesn't apply to Monterey and one applying to Monterey usually doesn't apply to Middlebury."

With three different programs focusing on either English or foreign language, Middlebury hopes to continue to build its reputation as a school that provides superior language education. Each of these programs have been around for more than 80 years and continue to evolve as the demands of each program change.

—James Dolan, focus editor





Photos courtesy of Middlebury College Language Schools

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Author lectures on climate change

By Gretchen Schrafft
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Kolbert, a staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine and author of a recently published book on global warming, lectured before an audience of students, faculty and community members in McCardell Bicentennial Hall last Monday. Kolbert is touring to publicize her book, "Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature and Climate Change," and spoke at Middlebury as a part of the College's "Meet the Press" series of guest lecturers.

Kolbert explained that the topic of her book arose from an article she undertook to write for *The New Yorker* about research being conducted in the field of paleoclimatology, or climate history. Kolbert shadowed a research team which based its findings about climate change upon readings conducted from samples of ice drilled in Greenland. Kolbert's wry humor revealed itself as she discussed public reception of the article, which appeared in print on Sept. 10, 2001. "You can imagine how many people were interested," she said.

> Until you lead a lifestyle that is all but inconceivable to Americans, you are still producing more greenhouse gases than anyone else in the world.
>
> —Elizabeth Kolbert

The article did, however, generate enough interest to prompt *The New Yorker* to offer Kolbert a three-part series assignment on the topic of global warming and climate control. Kolbert's somewhat-surprising reaction to this proposal introduced a crucial point which seemed to lie at the heart of her lecture.

Kolbert struggled with the decision to accept the assignment, well aware of the inherent difficulties in creating a compelling article on the gradual effects of global warming.

A perfect example of the subject's "unreportability" lies in the fact that much of scientific information is communicated in numbers and technical phrases, often incomprehensible to the average person.

In Kolbert's attempt to attach narrative to her topic, she utilized a variety of tactics in each article. The first focused on the current plight of an island town in the Arctic that is grappling with the effects of global warming. The second employed the anecdote of a drought that devastated the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia as a cautionary message applicable to the planet's own future. Lastly, Kolbert provided an alternative approach to the current United States policy of describing events taking place in the Netherlands where government-sponsored ads about the dangers of global warming are routinely aired on television.

Kolbert's book is a more in depth examination of the climate control issue, which she elected to draw to a close in Burlington, in order to demonstrate positive combative efforts. Kolbert looks at Burlington as something of an oasis in the desert, because it is "frighteningly hard to find a place where people are actually doing things." Burlington's "Ten Percent Challenge" is an endeavor to cut back on energy consumption by 10 percent. Unfortunately, this goal has yet to be achieved.

The question and answer period demonstrated the overwhelming concern of audience members, many of whom expressed eagerness to effect change on the country's production of greenhouse gases. Kolbert lamented the fact that global warming has been politicized, detracting from any unified attempts to address the situation. She noted the irony of taxpayers' dollars funding scientific studies on the matter, only to have the results ignored or distorted. The simple truth of the matter, as Kolbert explained, was that "until you lead a lifestyle that is all but inconceivable to Americans, you are still producing more greenhouse gases than anyone else in the world."

Vlad Lodoaba

Getting serious about global warming, journalist Elizabeth Kolbert gives a lecture in McCardell Bicentennial Hall last Monday.

When asked during the question and answer segment how best to draw attention to the issue on campus, Kolbert responded: "Media thrives on news." She charged students to give the media something newsworthy, something that would allow it to turn the eternal lament over global warming into a captivating story. However, Kolbert also cautioned that the one thing such movements should avoid is becoming hypocritical, using the example of a student driving a car to a hunger strike to illustrate her point.

In her remarks, Kolbert mentioned that since conducting her research, the climate has undergone "scary changes." The town in Alaska, which she focused on in one of her articles, now has open water on its beaches in the dead of winter. She characterized climate change as "the running story of our lives."

Kolbert ended the lecture by restating that global warming is an increasingly serious problem with no immediate resolution in sight. If global warming is to hold a central place in world events for generations to come, it needs to be more than simply newsworthy; it needs to demand our undivided concern and

Midd 8 spreads sexual awareness

Kimberly Bowker

Stockpiling an impressive assortment of condoms and lollipops, members of Midd 8 get ready to launch their campaign on global awareness. Part of the campaign includes raising awareness about the HIV and AIDS crises that continue to plague much of the developing world.

Nature finds home in architecture

By Mike Murali
Staff Writer

At 7:30 p.m. tonight in the Charles A. Dana Auditorium, Middlebury College and the Bread Loaf Corporation of Middlebury will present a lecture by Patrick Bellew entitled "Ant Hills to Labyrinths: Engineering Sustainable Architecture." The talk — the second in the "Architecture & ..." lecture series — will concern the effectiveness of modeling structures after designs found in nature.

We ought to work together to expose our community to how architecture and building projects really affect day-to-day life for everyone.
—Andrea Murray

The idea for the lecture series began in the spring of 2005 when the architecture departments for both Middlebury College and the Bread Loaf Corporation decided to organize presentations and discussions on architecture and the importance of the architect.

"We talked about how our two entities represent the more significant architectural presences in the area and that we ought to work together to expose our community to how architecture and building projects really affect day-to-day life for everyone," said Andrea Murray of the Bread Loaf Corporation. "What evolved was a connection whereby our two institutions would collaborate to present lectures, roundtables and films that would help to engage and educate each other and the surrounding communities."

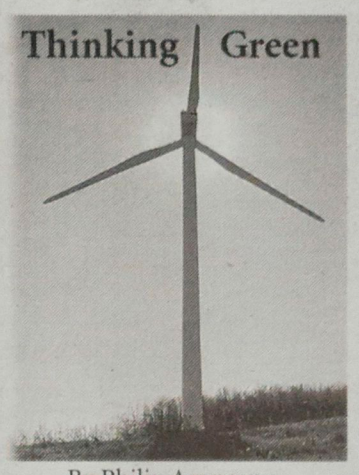
Bellew's talk will focus on how using designs inspired by nature — a process referred to as "biomimicry" — is the most efficient, effective and environmentally friendly approach to architecture. Natural shapes are not only better from an economical standpoint, but are also far more aesthetically pleasing than the rigid rectangular prisms which serve as the towers of today's businesses, Bellew argues. It naturally follows that shapes in nature have adapted to be more energy efficient, suggesting that buildings can act the same way.

Bellew, founder of the New York- and London-based environmental design firm atelier ten, will deliver today's lecture. "Atelier ten has a strong belief in responsibility to the environment, and our business practices seek consistently to reflect this belief," said Murray.

Bellew has completed several projects noted for their innovative designs and sustainability in the United Kingdom, Australia and Singapore. He has won several awards both for past work and current projects, including an addition to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, the new Grand Rapids Museum of Fine Arts in Michigan and several school, housing and cultural projects. In addition to his accomplishments as an architect, he co-teaches the core environmental design course for the Masters of Architecture program at Yale University.

Atelier ten, said Bellew, is a company dedicated to creating buildings that minimize energy use while maximizing the comfort of their occupants. According to the company's Web site, Atelier ten has been working since 1990 from designs found in nature "to produce buildings that consume less energy, and so function more economically." Their commitment to the environment is so deep that they recently planted 70 new trees in Roads Woodland in Buckinghamshire, England to offset carbon dioxide emissions created by their employees during worldwide business travel.

Courtesy
Patrick Bellew will present a lecture on how designs inspired by nature are an effective and environmentally friendly approach to architecture.



By Philip Aroneanu
Staff Writer

Over 150 students and other individuals walked into Montpelier High School muddy and dripping last Saturday afternoon. Their hands were cold, their bike shorts soaked, and they were hungry. Despite the lack of warm showers and a cozy woodstove to sit by, they joined an auditorium full of Vermont activists and citizens who had come together to support clean energy in the state. Though the rain may have moistened shirts and socks, it did not dampen the spirit and dedication of those who attended the rally.

The second-annual "Fossil Fools' Day" bike ride and rally attracted students from Middlebury College, St. Mikes, the University of Vermont and other institutions, along with a number of passionate Vermonters, all of whom pedaled on their own the 40 miles from Burlington to Montpelier. On Route 2, vans stopped along the way with snacks and water for the participants, and a sweaty, cheering crowd was on hand to welcome riders as they pulled into the high school parking lot in packs.

As a symbol of the coming energy revolution, many riders taped pinwheels onto their bikes, wore capes and held signs. Along the way, onlookers ogled from their cars and families sitting on their front porches cheered the riders on. Democrat Scudder Parker, now running for governor, was the first to speak at the rally. Scudder said that Vermont is known as a leader in the area of renewable energy sources but maintained that there is much that still needs to be accomplished on the state level if we are to avoid the worst effects of global warming. Partisanship, polarization and political log jamming have made getting clean energy legislation passed in Vermont difficult.

One state legislator who spoke at the rally expressed frustration with colleagues, encouraging concerned citizens to take action and to convince local politicians to take on what often seems like too large an issue. Congressman Bernie Sanders, the Vermont independent running to replace retiring Senator Jim Jeffords, commended the event's organizers and impassioned students in his trademark punchy style.

"Students know that to make the climate movement successful, we need to be creative," said event organizer Chester Harvey '09. "The bike ride was successful because it garnered a lot of attention and sent a strong message to politicians and the public. Climate change is a real and urgent issue that needs to be dealt with. And it was fun." Indeed, the persistence of students and others in the face of a rainstorm, wind and forty miles of rolling hills parallels the energy and dedication they have for the issue of climate change. They know the time to act is now.

World Briefs

By Ian Schmertzler

Bird flu spreads

The World Health Organization confirmed four cases of Avian flu (H5N1) on April 3, of which two were fatal. Though the other two confirmed cases have fully recovered, a fifth patient remains hospitalized awaiting tests. Two additional persons, a 6-year-old girl and her 18-month-old sister, were hospitalized the day before, with preliminary testing by the Egyptian government detecting H5N1. The new cases bring the total number confirmed by the World Health Organization as of this printing to 190, of which 107 cases have been fatal.

—World Health Organization, Egypt

Skinhead beating

The Russian News and Information Agency reported early Sunday morning that the culture minister of Russia's North Caucasus Republic was attacked by skinheads on Saturday. According to his lawyer, Zaur Tutov, the minister in question said he was beaten by around 15 men as he traveled to pick up his daughter from a folk dancing class. Witnesses reported that the group of attackers shouted "Russia is for Russians!" repeatedly during the beating, which continued for several minutes.

—RIA Novisti, Moscow

French riots continue

Demonstrations throughout France continued on Friday with President Jacques Chirac declaring in a televised address his support for the contentious labor law that has been the cause of staunch protests since its passage by Parliament earlier this year. The law allows employees under the age of 26 to be laid off without reason at any point during their first two years of employment. Chirac asked for the law to be modified to require that the employee be provided with an explanation if fired and that the two-year period be reduced to one. Chirac signed the bill over the weekend.

—New York Times and Le Monde, Paris

Growth in Asia

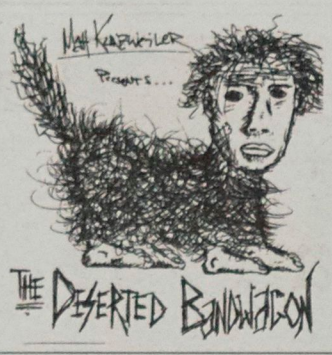
The World Bank reported on Friday that East Asia's economies had surpassed Europe's as the region most open for trade. Growth was broad for the second year in a row, with growth of over 4 percent in all East Asian countries except Timor-Leste. This strong growth comes in spite of the highest oil prices in 25 years, rising interest rates, continued worries over the financing of the United States' current account deficit and the prospect of the spread of avian flu. Continued growth is projected for next year as well.

—The World Bank, Washington

Winners & Losers

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

Gaining an hour of light at night	**Losing an hour of sleep on Sunday**
More time to play, more time to be outside, more time to not start your work until later.	Ugh...if you're going to take an hour of sleep away, Sunday morning is *not* the time to do it. Really.
Battell Beach last week	**Mud Beach this week**
Sunshine and softball and swimsuits (on freshmen)...oh my.	Oh, Middlebury spring, how beautiful you are.
Middlebury prospectives	**Your prospect's drive home the next morning**
Woo! People who still have four years of college ahead of them...oh how jealous we are! Now let's get you crunk, Middlebury style.	Mom: "Hi sweetie! How was your night at Middlebury?" Prospect: "Uggghhh...got...so...crunk...so...hung...over...."



BY MATT KUNZWEILER

MCAB, we delegated to you an important responsibility — and you shamelessly went ahead and organized a spring concert that will utterly fail to celebrate the values that characterize Middlebury College.

We students demand a performance that will salute our time-honored principles: diligence, sportsmanship, honesty, sobriety, nutrition, hygiene, punctuality and cross-country skiing. That's what we're all about. That's what we cherish. And we expect our visiting musicians to reflect and reinforce our level-headed convictions.

Consider for a moment Naughty by Nature's track record: Were you aware that MCs Treach and Vinnie were arrested in 1997 for illegal weapons possession? How are they going to set a good example for our impressionable students? Additionally, some of their lyrics go so far as to incite violence in their listeners. MCAB, do you wish to see students "knuckle-up" at NBN's behest and participate in an all-out melee? Is this what you want — to imperil our values?

The concert's headliner, Jurassic 5, is no better. They brazenly speak of "puffin cold spliffs" in one of their songs. If you consult the College handbook, you'll find that Middlebury does not approve of narcotics use. What if we trusting and good-natured Middlebury students unsuspectingly take the advice of these hip hoppers and are coerced into experimenting with "cold spliffs"? Personally, I can't imagine. But I do know this: without such harmful advice, it would never occur to students to ingest psychotropics during a musical event. MCAB, if I get high during the concert, I'm holding you responsible.

(As for Rahzel: his talented beat-boxing will only encourage untalented a cappella beat-boxers to reach for their dreams — which would be obnoxious.)

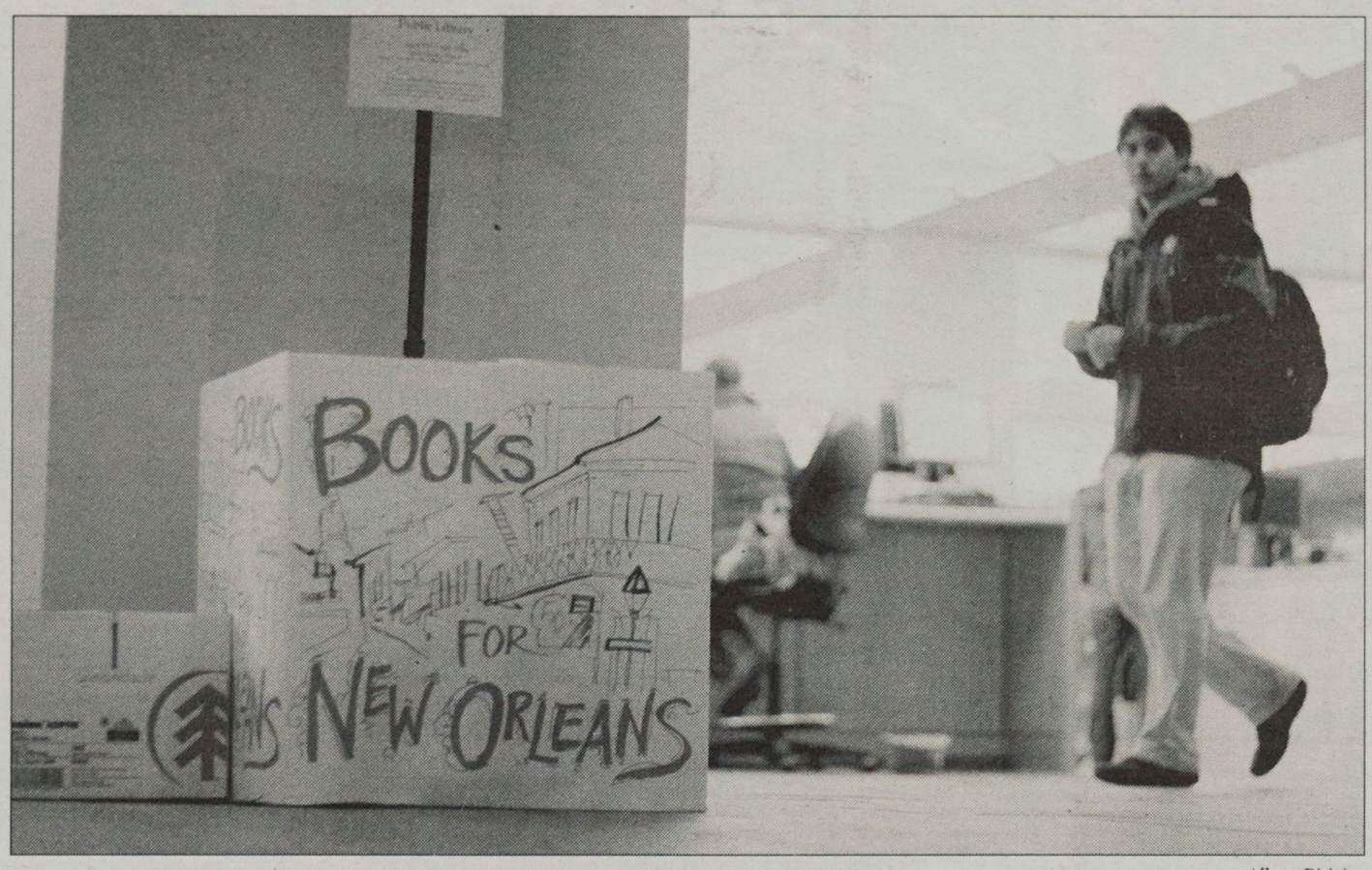
But the more I think about it, the more I realize MCAB is totally "down" with hip hop and its morally unsound messages. This is demonstrated by MCAB's slang-savvy emails which invariably conclude by saying: "Peace out players, one love, holla, shazaam — MCAB out." Sometimes their e-mails even rhyme.

And in the March 30 issue of *The Middlebury Campus*, a front page headline testified to the fact that the College Activities Board is already in bed with hip hop's brand of moral corruption: "MCAB boasts unprecedented spring concert." Boasts, did you say? Boasting, let me remind you, is an indulgent act of bravado — which is so hip hop.

And the real tragedy isn't the concert itself — but that all the students will edit their Facebook profiles the next day, and post photos of themselves posing next to strung-out rappers at the Marriot afterparty. So we'll be reminded of this shameful event over and over and over again.

Look, I'm not saying that these hip hop artists aren't accomplished in their field, or that certain correctional facilities wouldn't enjoy their music. I'm just saying that we should've just booked Jack Johnson and ordered him to play a one-hour set consisting exclusively of the songs he wrote for the new "Curious George" motion picture soundtrack, which would have guaranteed innocent and melodious fun for all... then again, Middlebury doesn't approve of curiosity per se — unless it is directed towards academic pursuits in the form of inquisitiveness...and we certainly don't approve of Curious George's behavior on that novelty t-shirt where he appears to have uncorked a jar of ether. So scratch Johnson.

Bound for New Orleans



Albert Bitici

Walking past the library entrance, a student comes across the New Orleans donation box, part of an effort by students and faculty to donate books to the hundreds of libraries that were destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. Donations are being accepted all week.

Book sale benefits New Orleans

Middlebury lends rebuilding libraries a helping hand

By Ashley Bell
Staff Writer

The weeks after Hurricane Katrina saw food, clothing and medicine rushed to the Gulf States. Yet another aspect of New Orleans life left in ruins were the dozens of public libraries destroyed this past hurricane season and which local volunteers are struggling to rebuild.

After facing the complete destruction of several library branches, the New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) is soliciting help from the nation. In a recent press release, NOPL Director Bill Johnson stated, "We struggle to rebuild, to connect with services, to see our children access educational opportunities — and to simply enjoy a respite through good books, music and movies — libraries will continue to be there for us."

Several Middlebury students and staff of the Library & Information Services responded to NOPL's plight by organizing a book sale. The sale is open to the public, and the local community is encouraged to participate.

The sale will be located in the Atrium of the Main Library and will begin at noon on April 11 continuing through normal library hours until April 16.

In order to prepare for this sale, organizers are collecting donated books from the college community. Collection boxes are located in all of the Middlebury campus libraries, in the dining halls and in McCullough from April 3 to 7.

The book sale is reminiscent of a volunteer program held this past fall and conducted by the Hurricane Relief Coalition, which raised approximately $3,000. Unfortunately, the NOPL system was still too devastated to communicate with at the time, so the money was instead donated to a high school writing program.

This upcoming book sale is expected to make even more money than the last, and the entirety of the proceeds will go directly to NOPL. The library system prefers monetary donations in order to allow the library the most freedom and choice with rebuilding their collection.

The book sale is only one aspect of a larger project to re-focus attention on the Gulf Coast. The week of April 10 to 14 has been deemed "Hang onto the Gulf Coast ... Before We Lose It Forever," and is dedicated to remembering those affected by the hurricanes. New Orleans resident and project leader Emily Peterson '08 said, "I noticed a dangerous trend that I fear is happening throughout the whole nation: The Gulf Coast is already slipping off of people's minds. I had the idea of organizing this follow-up week to raise awareness about the current situation in the Gulf Coast and to bring the issue back into our daily consciousness."

We struggle to rebuild, to connect with services, to see our children access educational opportunities, and to simply enjoy a respite through good books.

—Bill Johnson

The week of discussions and lectures will focus on current relief efforts in New Orleans as well as the growing concern of climate change and the possibility of severe storms that will arise.

The week will also include a letter writing campaign where students and faculty are encouraged to prepare a letter to Congress about the loss of critical wetlands in the Gulf.

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Looking for a job?

Would you like the chance to spend another year in Middlebury?

Library and Information Services is entering the 5th year of offering its Graduate Intern Program. The program seeks to identify graduating seniors with an interest in library or technology services who would like to return to Middlebury as a full-time staff member. The positions are 10-month appointments with full-time benefits. In the past we have had students work in the following areas: web programming, network security and administration, application development, digital media services, and digitization to name a few.

For more information and to apply please contact Dave Donahue (ddonahue@middlebury.edu or ext. 3060) to request an application and additional information.

do you have a story idea?

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arts

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Architects build Beaux Arts Ball!

Table discussion turns to tuxedos, jazz and champagne

By Joyce Man
Arts Editor

Vlad Lodoaba

Professor of Art Glenn Andres and Caitlin Brome '06 engage in lively discussion at this Monday afternoon's weekly Architecture Table discussion about the logistics of the upcoming Beaux Arts Ball.

Two years ago, the Johnson Building saw rounds of wine served to the mellow tunes of the Dick Forman Jazz Group transform its interior into a vibrant, schmoozy social space. This weekend, Jean Paul Carlhian's brutalist cement interiors play host again to another event organized by the same student group, Architecture Table. Judging from the recognizeable, stylized posters that bear striking resemblance to those designed for Johnson Week, one would expect a week-long event of similar breadth and length, but as freshly-graduated Andrew Rossmeissl '05 explains, this Saturday's Beaux-Arts Ball should be a fete of a totally different kind.

Initiated in 2001 by Middlebury College alumnus Andrew Corrigan '02.5, Architecture Table consists of a group of students, many pre-architecture majors, who organize field trips, social events, and lecturers to, in the words of former president Jonathan Coble '05.5, "progressively [try] to provide... broader exposure to the world of design."

Two years ago, Architecture Table organized Johnson Week to raise appreciation for the much loved, yet much hated Johnson A. Memorial Building, whose brutalist forms have in the past elicited many displeased responses from unimpressed students. The week-long schedule of lectures brought Jean Paul Carlhian, who designed the Johnson Building back to revisit his building.

Architecture Table has been involved in a small number of projects while trying to establish a more substantial role on campus. Last fall, they launched a chair design competition with an award of $100 for the winner. Recently, the group influenced the college administration to invite Michael Dennis, whose firm, Michael Dennis and Associates, has furnished many college campuses with their brand of integrated architecture, to come to Middlebury as master planner. The group also competed successfully in the Vermont American Institute of Architects "Canstrunction" competition.

The upcoming Beaux Arts Ball is another sign that the Architecture Table, now headed by Teague Douglas '06, is alive and well, despite low funds provided by the Financial Committee for this event.

On Monday afternoon, the group's regular roundtable discussion took the time to review all the works in progress as their big date approached. From such intricacies as how to project 80 slides of their favorite building on the mezzanine walls to how best to circulate 70 bottles of champagne without running dry by 10 p.m., the organizers worked out the kinks in their final planning stages.

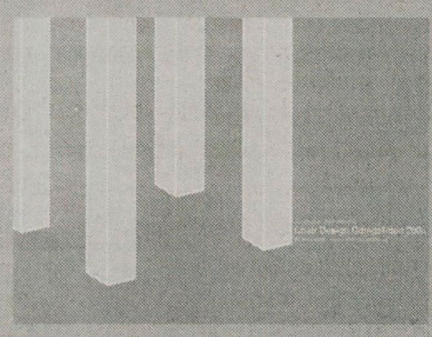
The Beaux Arts Ball, a long-time tradition at older universities, is a masquerade held by architecture departments to celebrate the end of exams. While most of our students and faculty will not be donning masks or tuxedoes — only a total of three students opted to reserve the hefty, hundred-dollar rented suits as of Tuesday — Architecture Table's event tries to emulate the Beaux Arts Ball in its grand tradiition. Student band Larson will provide the evening's entertainment.

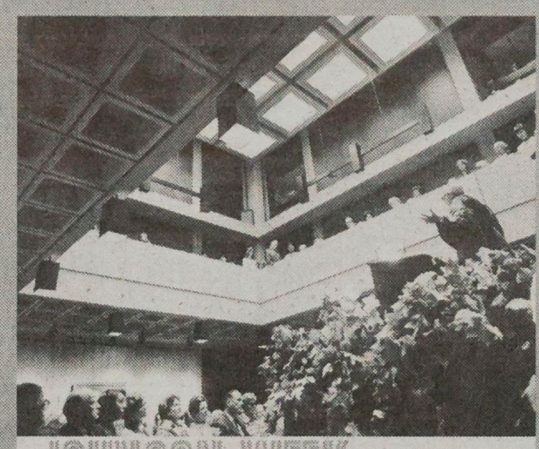
It is also, in part, a send-off event for departing Visiting Assistant Professor of Architecture Parker Croft, who will give a lecture on the night. Dennis will give a separate lecture about contemporary urban architecture.

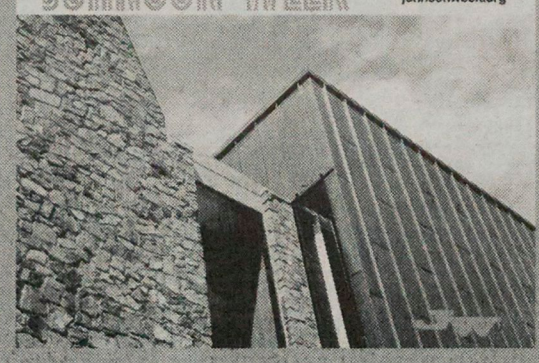
From the drawing board:

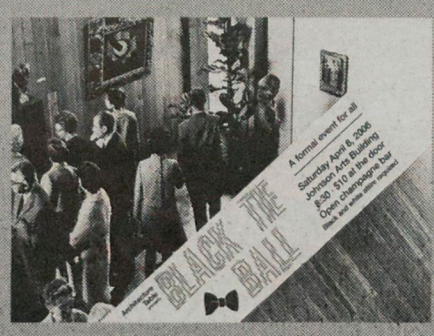
An anatomy of Rossmeissl's conspicuously cool image design

For Architecture Table publicity, Andrew Rossmeissl '05 attempted to create an identity for the group without making it too imposing. Since Architecture Table's aim was, after all, to provide a no-pretenses open forum for students to discuss all design-related matters, the image of the group had to reflect that. "We wanted to keep the simple aesthetic," said Rossmeissl, "to reflect the Table as a clear, blank slate."








BLACK TIE BALL
A formal event for all
Saturday April 8, 2006
Johnson Arts Building
8:30 -1:0 at the door
Open champagne bar
Black and white attire required

"We wanted to show how versatile Architecture Table was designed to be. It is a fairly pretentious aesthetic, so we balanced it out, in a tongue-in-cheek way, by calling it 'Architecture Table' — a pretty pedestrian name for a group. When I did posters for parties, I loosened it up a little by drawing inspiration from the style of our building, Johnson, and the time period it's from," said Rossmeissl.

Hh

The chosen font for all the posters was Helvetica, a clean sans-serif face which, Rossmeissl explains, is the standard type used by architects. Developed by a man named Max Miedinger in the 1957 for a Swiss group, it gained popularity in the 1960s.

Spotlight on...Ken Ragsdale

Artist in residence talks with Art Major

Artist in Residence Ken Ragsdale comes to Middlebury from Albany, N.Y., where he lives and works. In 2005, he received his M.F.A. at University at Albany, State University of New York. A painter, sculptor and photographer, Ragsdale is ever-building a body of work based primarily on the exploration of the function and process of memory. Living in 14 different locations since birth, he was greatly affected by the ideas of impermanence and ephemerality, especially in relation to the accumulation of memories. Through his paintings, photographs and sculptural paper models, he explores both the physical space of places he remembers from his childhood as well as the figurative space of his memory. Studio art major Caitlyn Ottinger '06 talks to Ragsdale about his past, present and overarching inspirations.

Vlad Lodoaba

The Middlebury Campus: **Will you give me your history? Where were you born?**

Ken Ragsdale: I was born in Walla Walla, Washington, 1962.

MC: **Did you grow up in an art family?**

KR: No, not really. Actually, that's not true. A lot of my family, tracing back on both sides, were musicians — a lot of country musicians. My grandfather used to tour and my dad is still a musician (he still performs), but my mom was the one who encouraged me, she was the one who said it was okay [to make art into a career].

MC: **Did you always know this is what you were, that you wanted to be an artist?**

KR: Yes. Yes. I think I took my first art class when I was eight. It was one of those summer classes that they had at the college and we would all go, and go out and draw things. I remember I had grown up around so much music and country musicians would come into our house and there'd be jam fests and my teacher in the summer class would listen to Cat Stevens and I loved it. I think that's how I first found my own music.

MC: **What was the worst job you ever had?**

KR: I had a lot of jobs. Each one of them made me more sure this [art] is what I wanted to do. Each one was another nail in the coffin for a real life. The worst only lasted for about two days. I had moved down to Santa Barbara and was working the sales floor for a high-end men's clothing shop. I just rearranged racks and occasionally someone would come in and I would tell them "we didn't have that" and they would leave. I asked the manager if I could sweep the floor or clean the windows or something and he said they had people who did that already and I said thank you and that was it. That week went along with my week spent at Hardee's [a burger chain, home of the Thickburger™].

MC: **What about school — did you go to an art school?**

KR: We moved a lot. I never lived in one place for more than four years — that's one reason the work comes out as it does. I started out at a community college in Walla Walla. It was a great experience. We would wake up and go get coffee and live in the print studio for 12 hours at a time. It was great. My advisor had to make up catalog numbers [for classes] for me so I could keep working.

While I was there we saw this movie of printmakers — each printmaker made a print for the movie and there was this really famous printmaker, he was big in the northwest, Louis Bunce. He was cleaning off his screen and talking about how toxic it all is because they still worked with oil-based stuff then, and the whole time he was speaking with this cigarette in his mouth and this huge bouncing piece of ash and I was like, "I wanna go to *that* school." So I tried to go to Western Michigan University. I spent some time there, but I didn't end up going to school, and then I went to Kalamazoo Art Institute for lithography. I was on the 11 year undergrad plan. After that, I was at PNCA (Pacific Northwest College of Art) in Portland, Ore. for three years. I studied under the sculptor William Moore, taught at a college and then went to SUNY Albany for my masters. By then I was into painting, mostly with oils.

MC: **Were you already interested in the kind of memory-related work you do now?**

KR: Yes, mainly I was interested in memory: how did my mind work, the processes and the way I develop those processes. I knew the process itself was important because that's how you make work — that's what you *are* as an artist, your work is a byproduct. I think it's important to be able to talk about the process and actually *show* how my memory works in a certain way. There should be an individual look that talks about my individual place, where I came from. The individuality is in the doing, it mirrors how your mind works. You are the package that is carried along. You are the process. You have to find a way to talk about the things that happen to you. Like my dad says, "If you can't make a difference, why are you here?"

"The individuality is in the doing, it mirrors how your mind works. You are the package that is carried along. You are the process."

MC: **It seems your work is linked strongly to psychology, do you study those processes at all?**

KR: I have a lot of friends who work in psychology. I don't necessarily study it, but it is a large part of my work. I have no idea what I'm doing half the time, and I have to stop myself and ask why I'm doing what I've done — why I'm compelled to do what I do.

One of the nice things about teaching is that it really illuminates your own work because you have to talk about it and voice your thoughts. When you don't talk about it and just stay in your studio, things tend to fester and they go bad. You do the same thing over and over and eventually you don't even know why you do it. You have to keep it fresh so everything makes sense to you.

MC: **If you could meet, say three artists ever, which ones would you pick?**

KR: Oh god. Everyone. Every one of them. I'd want to spend an hour with anyone who's serious.

MC: **And finally, what museum would you insist every Middlebury student should see?**

KR: Well I have two: The Frick Collection in Manhattan and The Art Institute of Chicago. The Frick because it's very personal. It's intimate. You have time with a thing. How often can you stand in front of a Vermeer all day long. And the best all around museum of all time in my opinion is The Art Institute of Chicago. When I used to live in Michigan I'd take the train and I'd have four spare hours in Chicago so I'd sprint over to the museum, stay for a couple hours, and sprint back to the train station. It was so great.

A selection of Ragsdale's work will be on show beginning Friday in the Johnson Art Gallery. He will give a slide lecture on his work Thursday April 13 at 4:30 p.m. in Johnson 304. A reception during which Ragsdale will answer questions will follow.

— Caitlyn Ottinger

WRMC 91.1 FM
On Rotation

BY BENJAMIN GOLZE

Yee-haw! The new music has been rolling in like cattle at feeding time. So hang on to your chaps: it's time for a new music round-up.

The Flaming Lips - *At War With the Mystics*

This sucker is arguably the heavyweight of the season, and it will be interesting to see how people react to it. The Flaming Lips is one of indie rock's biggest acts, perhaps *the* biggest act, and a good number of people who associate themselves with this snobby sphere are openly fans of the band. It's been four years since their last album, "Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots," polarized fans with its over-produced feel, and "At War With the Mystics" has been touted as a return to their heroin-inspired guitar rock roots.

Unfortunately, it doesn't really seem to have worked out. The album is a combination of extremely bizarre production choices, almost like the band decided which bleeps, bips, and other sounds would sound really weird and then wrote the songs around them. Opening single "The Yeah Yeah Yeah Song" showcases when this works out, with a capella vocal parts punctuating the group's signature pounding and crunching percussion. "The W.A.N.D.," is maybe the only song that reverts to the band's earlier sound, and, in doing so, does well. Besides those two, the best songs on "At War with the Mystics" are the slow ones, which is kind of weird for a Flaming Lips album. I'm at a loss about whether to recommend this or not, so I'll just leave it at that.

Mates of State - *Bring it Back*

Many critics have described this San Francisco-based husband and wife duo as sweet and charming. Maybe in principle they are — he plays drums, she plays keyboard, and they both sing. But their music is anything but sugary. I don't know if Mates of State invented the boy-girl vocal style, but they had already mastered it on their earlier albums, and it's in full effect here again. The way their voices intertwine on some of the slower songs such as "Like U Crazy" (a stupid title, I know) is perhaps where the description "charming" comes from. However, the pure quantity of pounding passion and sound they elicit from just those two instruments is overwhelming, and the songs are full of wrenching pop hooks that don't let go even after they've passed.

Built to Spill - *You in Reverse*

I know I did a preview of this a couple of weeks ago, but I finally got to listen to the full album, and it is, in a word, underwhelming. All three songs I based my preview on are simply amazing, but the others, well, not so much. The jam mentality that seems to have dominated the songwriting causes the sprawling guitar parts, Built to Spill's specialty, to fall flat. Pick up a single of "Goin' Against Your Mind" if you can. This album isn't really worth it.

Yeah Yeah Yeahs - *Show Your Bones*

This last album I haven't actually heard in full either: I've only heard two songs. So I'm going to avoid trying to extrapolate and hyping up a good preview of a bad album again, because I hear that it's pretty bad, which finishes off an early spring season of disappointing releases. Single "Gold Lion" and the other song "Cheated Hearts" sound like what I would expect from a band that emerged in the New York rock revival so ably lead by The Strokes a few years ago. The former features kick-you-in-the-gut percussion, and the band's signature female vocals (singer Karen O) on the latter add a healthy dose of sex to an otherwise standard, but very catchy, rock song.

Phew! That batch was tougher than sagebrush. Catch ya'll further on down the trail.

Tallis Scholars resound with 'Magnificats'

By Rachel Greenhaus
Staff Writer

Last Sunday, Middlebury College's community had an opportunity to hear the world-renowned Tallis Scholars in Mead Chapel. The group, made up of five women and five men, is visiting as part of their 2006 US tour. For their concert at Middlebury they performed a set rather uncharacteristic of their usual repertoire, drawing from late Renaissance-era music in Germany. The program, entitled "Mozart's Roots," began with a setting of the "Magnificat," by Praetorius. The piece opened with a solo chant line to introduce the melodic theme of the piece and the male soloist's voice was a beautiful preview of the choir sound that came in a moment later, pure but full, loud without any hint of strain. The piece utilized an almost constant echo effect between the women's and men's parts until they converged together at the very end with "Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto" and a strong, clear "Amen."

The first half of the program continued in the Latin sacred tradition, with three more pieces by Praetorius including one other "Magnificat" setting. The group also sang a harmonically intriguing "Ad dominum cum tribularer" by Hans Leo Hassler. a 16th-century German Renaissance composer and organist. What began as chordal harmonies were made unsettling by chromatic notes that were introduced in the higher parts. Phrases of irregular length alternated with more predictable lines. The sound was liquid and pleading, so legato that it almost seemed to ooze from note to note, leaving a melancholy sound that fit perfectly with the song's words, "In my distress I cried to the Lord, and he heard me. O Lord, deliver my soul from lying lips and a deceitful tongue."

The second half of the program began, after some shouts and cheers from the audience, with "Ave Maria," the last Latin piece of the evening, by Ludwig Senfl, a Swiss Renaissance composer who was director of the royal court's music under the Holy Roman Empire. .

After this began the German portion. The middle three songs of the second half were by Heinrich Schütz, one of two of Germany's most influential 17th-centurycomposers, and included "Deutsches Magnificat," a German setting of the same text as the two Praetorius pieces from the first set. This piece was one of the highlights of the evening, especially since the same concert brought two other versions of "Magnificat."

The Schütz piece did not include the traditional chant line as in the Praetorius piece, but instead began with all parts in unison and continued with a tenor leading line set mostly in ensemble singing. This allowed the group's gorgeous blended sound a chance to shine. Schütz's "Magnificat" was also much more rhythmically precise than many of the other works in the program, swaying rather than scooping. It was energetic in a way that the other versions of "Magnificat" were not. The counterpart in combination with the articulation made this piece much more like the antiphonal brass pieces that were composed during the same time in Europe.

This led very nicely into the final piece of the evening, J.S. Bach's "Komm, Jesu, komm." The Bach piece was a fusion of the traditional melodies of chant with more complex choral harmonies of superbly fluid lines and tasteful articulation. The runs and ornamentations flowed flawlessly together in the choir's execution — they literally sang like one, multi-voiced individual. The high soprano lines floated above everything and, similarly, the low bass part set a firm and solid foundation for the sound but none of the parts overwhelmed the others. The choir was in perfect balance and when the Bach ended, the crowd exploded with applause.

Vlad Lodoaba

The Tallis Scholars, including five men and five women, came to perform their repertoire of Renaisance tunes at Mead Chapel as part of their 2006 U.S. Tour last Sunday.

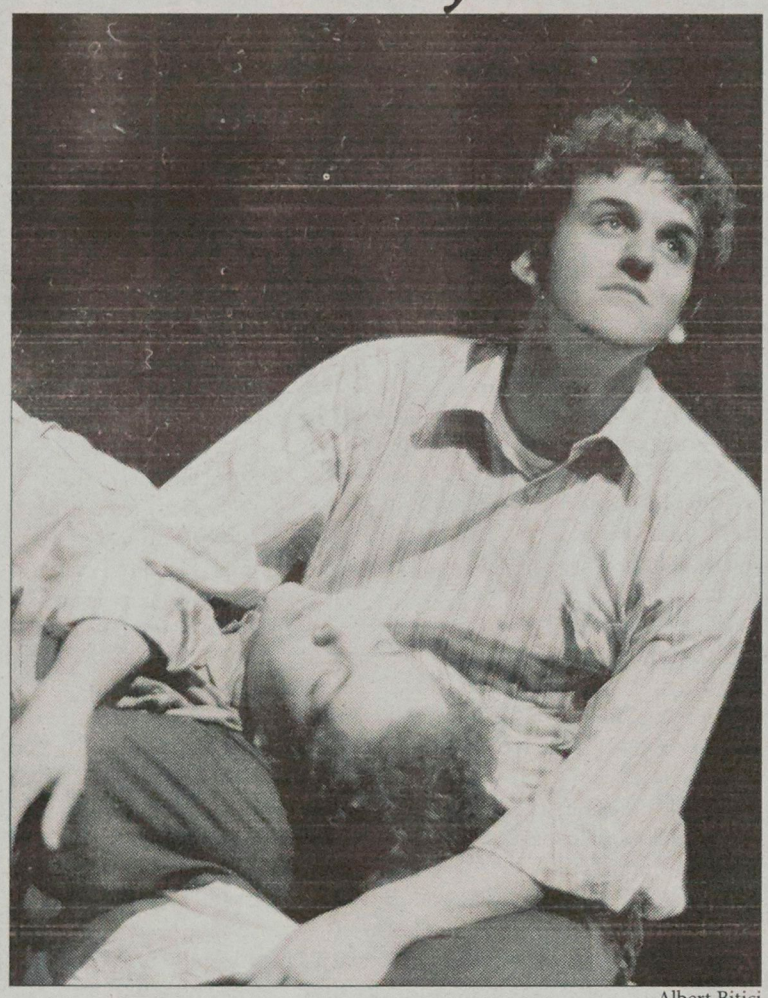
Actors of 'The Project' shine in dark roles

By Ellen Grafton
Staff Writer

The senior work of Lucas Kavner '06.5 and Daniel di Tomasso '06 proved to be well worth the buzz it had accumulated. The show, presented in the Hepburn Zoo March 30 through April 1, was originally directed by Guest Professor of Theater Alex Draper, but the final direction was by Professor of Theater Richard Romagnoli.

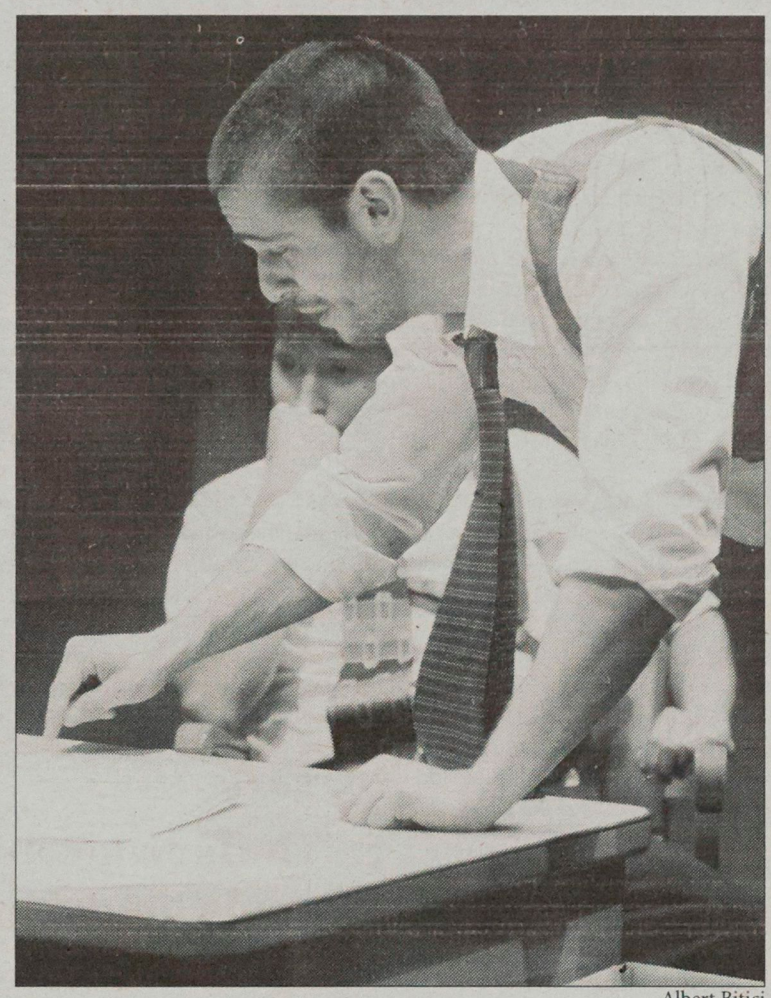
Set in a totalitarian state sometime in the future, the play follows the story of a writer (Kavner) who has been arrested in connection with the horrific murders of several children. Through his interviews with two police officers (MacLeod Andrews '07.5 and di Tomasso) we learn that the murders of the children match the murders described in the writer's stories. These stories are periodically narrated to the audience by Kavner, while the action is mimed by actors behind him. The writer's mentally-handicapped brother, played by Willie Orbison '08, is also taken into custody. Eventually, the writer is shocked to discover his own brother is guilty of the murders. Even more devastating for the writer is the realization that the murders were acted out based on the vivid descriptions in his violent short stories. The action that ensues raises questions about the nature of art and its responsibilities to society.

Playing the character of a disturbed but brilliant writer, Kavner was able to expand from his most recent roles as a sweet-hearted lover (David in "The Melting Pot" and Walker and Ned in "Three Days of Rain") to prove his competency at darker material. Though the quirky artistic tendencies and affability of his character echoed Kavner's earlier roles, he handled the violence and morbidity of the character with equal grace.



Albert Bitici

Lucas Kavner '06.5 holds Wilie Orbison '08 in his arms in an emotional embrace as their characters wait to discover their fate.



Albert Bitici

Daniel DiTomasso '06, front, and MacLeod Andrews '07.5 play dectectives carrying out the motives of a tyrannical government.

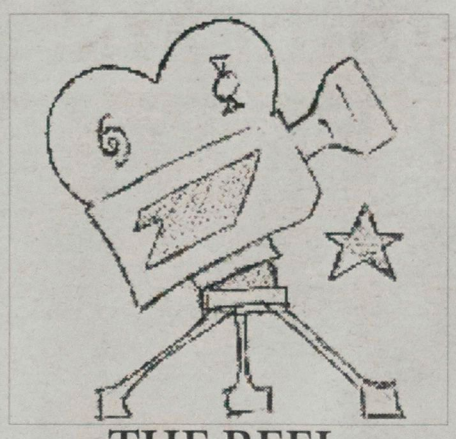
Di Tomasso lost the common family issues of his earlier performance in "The House of Yes" to portray a violent police officer with a sentimental side. Though di Tomasso's speech was occasionally difficult to understand, his vocal and physical embodiment of a sweet-tempered bone breaker were well-played. He was in turns comical and frightening, as befits the text. As his intelligent and manipulative partner, Andrews '07.5 embodied well the deceits of a justice system that can be as brutal as it is persuasive.

The surprise performance of the night was that of Orbison. In his first major role on the Middlebury stage, Orbison played the mentally-disabled brother of the writer. Orbison's physical portrayal never faltered despite the constant movement and tension it demanded. The endearing moments between Kavner and Orbison paid off in the audience's reaction of shock at Orbison's admittance to the murder. In a role that could easily have become a caricature, Orbison remained convincing.

The set design by Christina Galvez '06 mirrored the dichotomy of writing and reality within the text. Most of the action took place in a grim, grey and green-toned office. A single metal desk with chairs served as the only set pieces. The seemingly solid grey flats became transparent to reveal a hidden landscape whenever Kavner related his stories to the audience.

Bright green hills and trees reminiscent of the drawings of Dr. Seuss magically appeared behind the screens, creating a separate playing space in which the stories could be acted out. Courtney Swanda's '06 costume design supported the duality of the play as established through the set. The costumes of the main characters had the same cool tones of the office, while the costumes of the mimed scenes had a vivid, cartoon-like palette.

The careful direction, strong choices, and vivid design culminated in what has already become one of the most talked-about Middlebury shows this year.



THE REEL CRITIC

BY JOE BERGAN

MOVIE | V FOR VENDETTA
DIRECTOR | WACHOWSKI BROS.
STARRING | HUGO WEAVING, NATALIE PORTMAN

Every film critic in America spent much of the past month scrutinizing the Wachowski Brothers' newest film, "V for Vendetta." Although the images of "terrorism" within the film are striking, what really matters is it's fresh take on the superhero genre. The story follows V (Hugo Weaving), the possibly crazy government experiment with a penchant for bomb making.

His attempt to oust the fascists who have destroyed democracy in the name of a war on terror and Islam raises several controversial issues. It is clear that Alan Moore — the original author of the graphic novel on which the movie is based — will not be treated to a Crawford Ranch barbeque and quail hunt anytime soon. Evey (Natalie Portman), V's beautiful sidekick, haunted by her parents' past and the tyrannical world which surrounds her, spends most of the film deciding whether to turn against or to join V in his quest for justice.

Unlike other comic book action movies, this film proudly relies not only on the heroics of the villain or computer graphics (think the writers' famous Matrix Trilogy), but more on the complexities of society and the validation of V in the viewer's eyes. It seems that most of the movie is spent trying to convince the audience that blowing up a building in this post-9/11 world is something that an American audience can commiserate with. Like Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain" that exposes the homosexuality of all "buddy" movies, "V for Vendetta" brings to light the provocative question haunting all Superhero movies: "Isn't a superhero just a crazed lunatic fighting other crazed lunatics?" Batman is a rich man who dresses like a bat…think about it.

It is clear that Alan Moore will not be treated to a Crawford Ranch barbeque and quail hunt anytime soon.

This film gives you Timothy McVey and allows you to sympathize with him. Unlike the crazed Oklahoma City bomber, however, V is innovative because his motives are not selfish, but altruistic. Most of the time, in films such as "Batman" or "Spiderman," the superhero just uses his powers to "get the girl." V has no interest in the flesh, a fact he reiterates continually, and as the film continues, it is uncertain whether V cares for Evey at all, let alone if he wants to bed her.

V's mask is also a point of comment. A messed up superhero should actually appear *messed up*. Not George Clooney or Val Kilmer — guys with square jaws and hair combed just so. V wears a mask to hide his face, further heightening his selflessness, powerful convictions and heavy sense of purpose.

The style of the film is also great — the audience learns nothing much more of the society than through television screens, therefore amplifying the sense of a world dominated by an all-powerful media industry. In addition, the costuming and set evoke images of Nazi Germany — not just some futuristic city — providing a clear message that history will repeat itself.

This film subtly reverses the norms of your average superhero movie. Action seekers and card-carrying members of the ACLU alike will enjoy it. It is a great movie to get your season's worth of action, but you will also leave the theatre wishing that you read a little more Faust. If you have a spare rainy Saturday and the Hirschfield series movie is just a little too pretentious this week, you need not worry. "V for Vendetta" is coming soon to Middlebury, and it gives a healthy dose of intellect and adventure.

Editors' A&E picks

for the week of 4/6 - 4/12

06

"IN THE BLOOD"
Tickets $5/$4/$3
Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Seeler Studio Theatre
A modern rendering of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter," Suzan-Lori Parks' "In The Blood" deals with such affecting issues as poverty, homelessness, race and the importance of art in social change. These concerns are revealed through the relationships of a cast of powerful, diverse characters performed by Middlebury students and directed by guest artist Jaye Austin-Williams.

07

DEJA NOUS: A NIGHT OF FRENCH CABARET
7:30-9:30 p.m. in the CFA Concert Hall
This Friday, musical trio Deja Nous brings the sultry cabaret crooning of France to Middlebury. Their style combines French pop and jazz and references songs by the likes of Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, Charles Aznavour and Charles Trenet. Performed in the French "Music Hall" tradition, their repertoire is sure to be one of spirit and sparkle and sensuous sound.

07

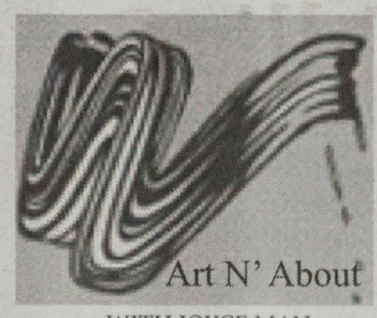
"COBU:" JAPANESE DANCE, DRUM AND FUNK
7:30-9:30 p.m. in McCullough Hall
Japanese rhythmic performance group COBU (translated as 'Dance like Drumming, Drum like Dancing) will present a captivating fusion of traditional Japanese Taiko drumming and American funk tap dance this Friday. Directed by STOMP veteran Yako Miyamoto, the hip troupe uses percussion instruments and tools from all over the world to create a unique, energetic performance.

10

MIDDLEBURY COMMUNITY WIND ENSEMBLE
7-8 p.m. in the CFA Concert Hall
Over 40 members from both Middlebury College and the Middlebury community come together to form Midd Winds. Their performance will begin vibrantly with "Rochester Park," an energetic march composed by Professor of Music Dr. Larry Hamberlin, and continue on to include a Bach fugue, a prelude by conductor Jerry Shedd, "Chorale" by Adirondak composer Robert Washburn and many other classical favorites.

11

CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH
Doors 7 p.m./Concert 8 p.m. at Higher Ground Ballroom, Burlington Vt.
Tickets $14
Claps Your Hands Say Yeah comes to Burlington this Tuesday with their lively, artful indie-rock. The Brooklyn-based five-piece screamed, clanked, harmonized and hummed boldly onto the scene in 2005 with their self-released, self-titled and self-distributed debut album — a rowdy, increasingly addictive romp in the ever-expanding world of indie. Listen to the dissonant chords, elegant riffs and barking lead singer and get ready to clap your hands...and say yeah.



WITH JOYCE MAN

This week, our managing editor commented on this column, saying "It's pretty high-brow." It made me think. At the beginning, this was intended as a regular spot for discussing big arts beyond small Middlebury. So, I wonder if we have neglected to take our high brows to the low-down on campus and, in the process, left the impression that Scandinavian design and New York's MOMA are somehow more serious than our home-grown orchestra and jazz bands.

If anyone complains about the lack of alternative entertainment beyond drunken partying, they should take a look at our events calendars. After all, our college plays host to a delightfully wide range of quality events and fosters wonderful talent.

For some reason, this month we're carrying an even denser candy package of enticements than usual. Maybe it's the inspiration of Spring and t-shirt-clad ladies and gents (though beware the forecast of snow) or maybe April is when projects traditionally come to fruition, but between plays, video art and, of course, the upcoming Johnson black tie event, we at the Arts Section have frankly had a hard time deciding what to cover and how to fit everything in our the mere four-page spread. Everything, regardless whether it will fly or flop, looks note-worthy.

That said, not everything has been all champagne and smiles. One of the first reviews I ever wrote in this paper was on an exhibition of sculptures made of pipe cleaners and styrophoam in various awkward poses. "Spectacular inspiration!", I raved then in naivete. Garbage modern art, I think now in retrospect. We can also think back to Mae Shi's concert in Coltrane Lounge this year, where the perfectly capable band somehow dissolved into chaos and nudity.

Sorry exhibitions aside, let's look at the following eye-opening encounters. The Vitality of Artistic Community Association (VACA) has revived dreary campus spots with art pieces that, though incomprehensible at first, attract consideration for art. Outgoing VACA co-president Kevin Buckland's wall art certainly gave drab brick rooms on campus a much-needed coat of fresh paint.

In fine art this week, we have Peter Horvath's video installation in the library and the current exhibition, "Screened and Selected," at the Museum to jump-start discussion about thoroughly modern, refreshingly engaging photo and digital image media. As for music — I hope everyone noticed the band of hat-bedecked performers of Kyrgyz nomadic music migrating through McCullough last week with stringed instruments.

There is also a much less noticeable underlayer of talent running alive beneath the quiet veneer of our campus grounds – our professors. Sure, academic writing about art can fall flat into bland theses about obscure topics, but ask, and we'll find some stuff. In the works in the arts department is a book on images of Krishna, a history of the Pantheon in Rome and research into national-socialist portraiture.

When Robert Venturi came to our campus to survey it — which, by the way, is like having God come to your house to assess how well you built it — he said, "You have here what everyone thinks an American campus should look like — only they almost never do." Sometimes, it's great to take a second look.

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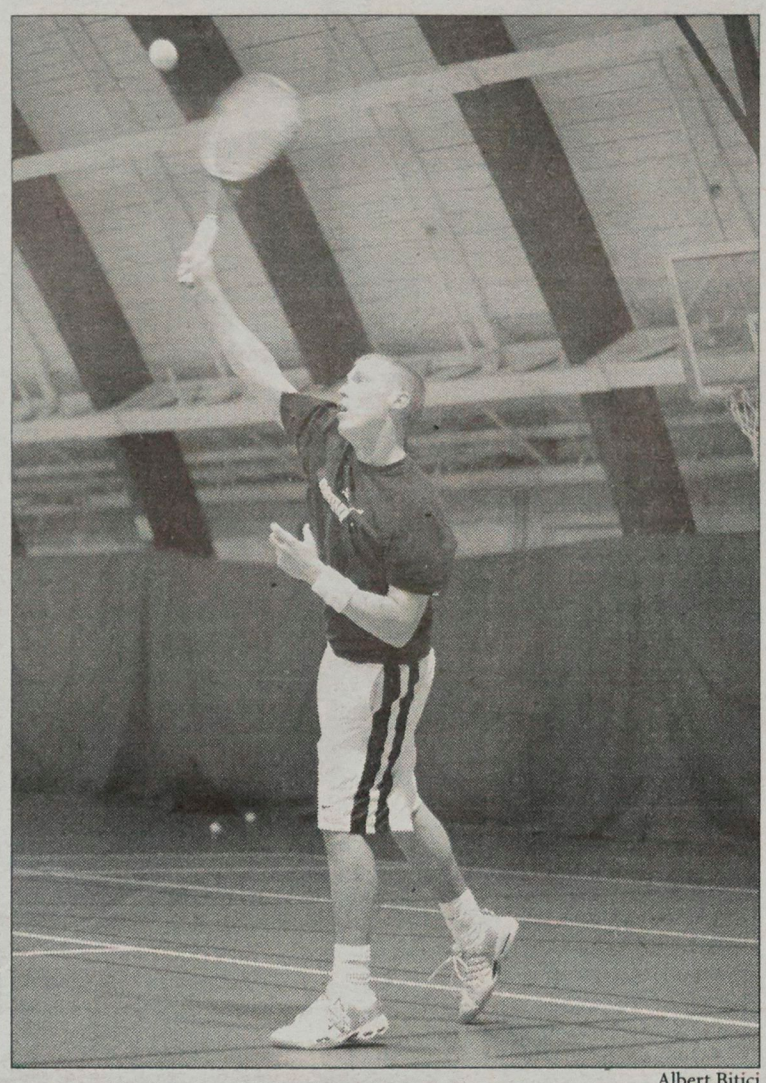
Midd splits a weekend pair

Panthers fall to Dartmouth before Tufts romp



Albert Bitici

An overhand kill during last week's action in Nelson Arena showed off Middlebury's NESCAC prowess, comprehensively beating Tufts 7-0.

By Tory Hayes
Staff Writer

After sweeping each of its first four matches 7-0, the Middlebury men's tennis team flew the coop over spring break, heading to sunny California for its first real test of the season: seven matches in 10 days.

Still, 3,000 miles were not enough to keep the team from playing like they were at home, as they won six of their seven matches, including three against top-10 teams.

The trip started off with a bang, as the team easily won its first three matches over California Poly-Pomona, Chapman and California Tech.

On March 21, the team suffered its first defeat of the season, losing 4-3 to Claremont-McKenna. But Middlebury came back with a vengeance in its next two matches, sweeping both 10th-ranked Pacific Lutheran and sixth-ranked Trinity of Texas by scores of 7-0.

Then came the biggest match of the trip, a March 25 showdown with defending National Champion and top-ranked UC-Santa Cruz, which defeated Middlebury in the Division III Championship match last spring.

The Panthers did Middlebury proud, celebrating a close 4-3 victory over their rivals. The match was punctuated by wins from senior captain Ari Beilin '06, who went 6-1 on the trip, and Conrad Olson '09, who went a perfect 6-0 in the Golden State.

That match wrapped up the team's trip. Unfortunately for Middlebury, however, their next opponent happened to be Dartmouth, a Division I team. To make things worse, the Panthers were scheduled to play the Big Green away from home, in Hanover, N.H.

This time, the team was unable to pull out a victory, falling 5-2 in a match that saw Olson's nine-match winning streak come to an end.

Men's Tennis

Thursday, March 30

Middlebury	2
Dartmouth	5

Friday, March 31

Middlebury	7
Tufts	0

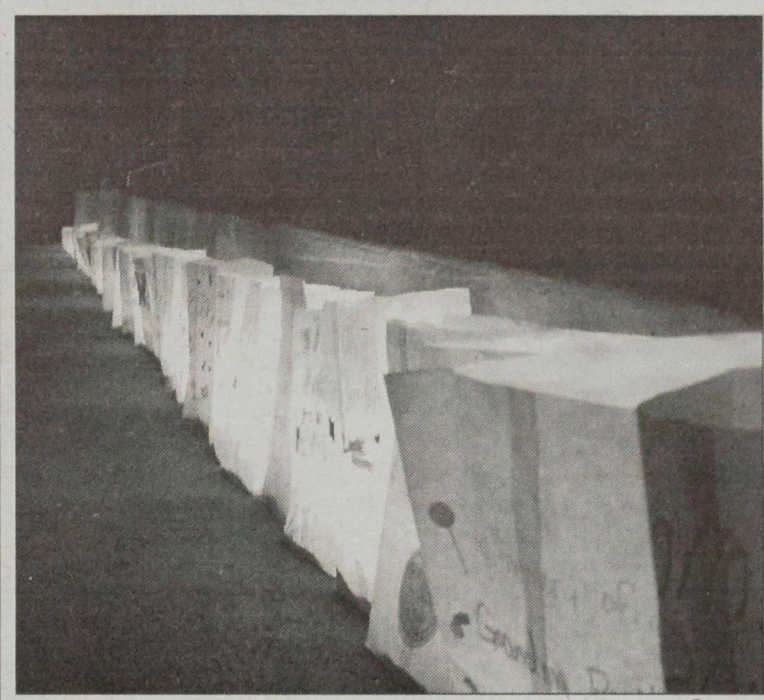
But the team was not about to let one loss to a Division I team derail its season as they made clear with a resounding 7-0 thumping of NESCAC foe Tufts last Friday.

Playing in their first outdoor home match of the season, the now fourth-ranked Panthers absolutely dominated in each of their seven matches, with no player losing more than two games in any of the 15 sets played.

Looking ahead, the Panthers will strive to remain undefeated in NESCAC play, as they wrap up their season with four intra-league matches, including one against sixth-ranked Williams College.

The team will also play one match outside the league against Union College of Schenectady, N.Y. Once the regular season wraps up at home on April 22 vs. Amherst, the team will begin preparing for the NESCAC Championships, which will take place at Williams from April 28-30.

Athletes take lead in fundraising kick



Courtesy

The luminaria ceremony is a highlight of most Relay for Life celebrations.

Continued from page 28

— translated a personal story into a team issue. Last year, her father was diagnosed with cancer so the cause became important to her, and ultimately, the team.

Katelyn Cannella '08 has raised an impressive $1,690 and believes it is the team's closeness that inspired action. "[Maura] started up a Relay for Life team and asked us if we would all participate. The softball team is more like a family than a team, so we were all impacted by the news about Maura's father, and wanted to help in any way we could. Everybody knows somebody who has been impacted by cancer, and so on behalf of Maura's father and other family and friends affected, we wanted to try to make a difference."

She continued, "I think that everybody knows somebody who has been affected by cancer, which is why it is a cause that so many people spend time working for." Whether it's an aunt, a classmate, a parent or a dog (Cannella's dog Yankee was recently diagnosed with cancer) the entire community has rallied around Relay For Life.

The Relay For Life experience unites the participating teams. Last year, the softball team had a double header and went immediately from running the bases to walking the track. Cannella describes the chemistry-building event: "We thought that we would walk in shifts, or some would even go back to their rooms to sleep during the night. But we surprised ourselves when we stayed there all night and all morning together, walking the track arm in arm, resting for only about an hour around 5 a.m. These will be some of my favorite memories from Middlebury: spending an amazing night with my best friends for such a worthy cause. I can't imagine anything more important." Neither can the cancer patients and survivors that benefit from their contributions.

Editors' Picks

Questions of the week:	*Zamir Ahmed*	*Tom McCann*	*Ryan W. Reese*
Will the baseball team win its series against Wesleyan?	YES Wesleyan has a losing record. Middlebury has a winning record. On that alone, I say yea.	YES These guys look really good this year. They'll have to fight, but they'll avenge last year's heartbreaker.	YES The two defeats at the end of last year are still fresh wounds. The Cardinals won't keep us out of the playoffs this year.
Will Emily Holick '07 still be undefeated this season after this weekend's clash with Amherst?	YES I think the Panthers will avenge two losses from last year against the Lord Jeffs.	YES Even mighty Amherst won't slow her down — she's been untouchable of late, and her next foe has little chance.	NO The Panthers fell 7-2 last year to the Jeffs and, unfortunately, Holick's impressive streak will see its end.
Will Jimmy Rollins' streak be alive at the end of the Phillies home stand next Monday?	NO Everyone's bound to have a bad day once in a while. He's due for one.	NO It would be a great story, but the pressure of the media and the weakness of his team will take their toll.	NO With the Dodgers and the Cards in town, I highly doubt that Rollins will make it through the week.
All-Time Record:	**15 - 18 (.454)**	**24 - 9 (.727)**	**18 - 15 (.545)**

By Justin Golenbock

"A man awakes clutching his hamstring after burning the candle late at Paddy O's the night previous. His head is shaved, and he sports a handlebar mustache, a tire around the waist and white salt stains across his forehead. He checks the calendar, April 3. Next to the date is a name: "Kevin Millwood, RIGHT-IE. 'S***,' he mumbles, reaching down to tie his cleats, still on from the night before, 'gotta get ready to play. Gotta support the team.'

"One wall of the room has been made into a long mirror: he looks into it and sees the opposing wall, which is plastered in pictures, all of himself. The largest is a monster picture collage, entitled 'To the player who forever changed the game,' signed and dedicated by a Gabe K. He stares into the mirror for a long moment, blowing wisps of his mustache up and down, then takes a few practice swings, watching each imaginary home run sail into the horizon: 'seeya,' he whispers. He grabs his uniform. Looking back into the mirror a final time, he repeats to himself, in his softest, most intimidating, six-inch, Clint Eastwood voice: 'I am Christopher Trotman Nixon. I. Am. Awesome.'"

This short narrative is intended to imaginatively introduce my 2006 MLB PREVIEW COLUMN, designed, as I see it, as a constructive critique of every other MLB PREVIEW COLUMN. It was suggested that I re-name the column "players whom I mock for no good reason," but "no good reason" was out of place. So to compromise, I cut my "Trot Nixon" introduction down to 200 words, from a previous 16,786.

First of all, let's take a look at the *USA Today* preview, an ode to the four most "underrated" roles in baseball: the super-utility man, the on-base guy, the innings eater and the steadfast dinosaur (overpaid veteran). Secondly, let's re-group these four into one super-group: bad baseball players. Take the best "Super-U" for example: Chone ("Shawn") Figgins. They report that last year he started at six different positions. Actually they're wrong, he started at seven: they missed DH. Don't you think that if he were really that great at any one, he'd be starting there every day? What he does well is hit well and run fast. Melvin Mora once played eight positions in a game for the Orioles; eventually he hit his way into their lineup as the everyday 3B, where he has since completed his re-definition of the term five hole.

Now, on-base percentage has certainly been recognized for its importance by baseball fans, but where it gets overvalued is as an isolated skill with no accompanying talent: Jeremy Giambi gets contracts from four different teams and Kevin Youkilis gets his own chapter in *Moneyball*. Congratulations, you suck, but at least your suckitude isn't because of an injury. And for every Julio Franco... there's really only one Julio Franco.

So, stay away from baseball previews. They might be more entertaining than mine, but they're probably longer and that makes all the difference.

Rainy Saturday sees Midd prevail

Panthers dominate despite inclement conditions at home meet

Albert Bitici

Matt Angoff '06 hurdles past his competitors on the Dragone track during this weekend's Panther Invitational.

By Chris Dowd
Staff Writer

This past weekend the Middlebury men's and women's track and field teams hosted and won the annual Middlebury Invitational. Coming back from the perfect conditions of sunny San Diego, the Panthers competed against Vermont, Colby-Sawyer, Union, St. Rose and Norwich in what coach Nicole Wilkerson said were, "less than ideal conditions." The meet took place in cold and rainy weather over the weekend that most track and field enthusiasts would consider as crippling. I guess nobody told that to Robert Marcoux '07.

Marcoux jumpstarted the Panthers this weekend by hurling a personal best 156'11" in the discus while qualifying for the nationals, which will be held in Illinois. Following Marcoux's resiliency to the adverse weather conditions were the usual outstanding performances of Senior All-Americans Kevin Bright and Steve Atkinson. Each won their respective events easily. Bright won the 400 hurdles with a time of 56.33 seconds and Atkinson won the hammer throw by crushing the competition with a throw of 138'6".

On the women's side, first-years Jen Katz and Jennifer Brenes were the catalysts in the Panthers' runaway victory. Katz took home the 200 in 26.46 seconds, and Brenes captured the 100 hurdles in 15.6 seconds. Those victories helped support the expected dominant performances of upperclassmen Whitney Creed '06 and Andrea Giddings '07, who won the hammer (139'7") and steeplechase (11:34.55), respectively.

While winning and doing well individually were certainly on the team's mind this past weekend, Coach Wilkerson noted that best part of the weekend was, "getting the full team together to start working towards winning the NESCAC." This upcoming month both teams will compete in a preliminary meet with Williams and Amherst and will continue training throughout the next three weeks until the NESCAC championships. Marcoux said the team's main concern in the upcoming weeks will be, "remaining focused on taking away league dominance from Williams."

The Panthers do not have an easy road at all, though. With Williams taking the NESCAC championship nine out of the last 11 seasons, the Panthers will have to look to their depth as a team in order to beat the Ephs.

Continued winning performances will be needed from athletes like Albert Handy '08 in the Triple Jump, Matt Engler '06 in the 110 hurdles, Jimmy Butcher '08 in the 5000 and Pascal Losambe '07 in the shot-put. On the women's side, Emma Feighery '09 in the pole vault and Kelly Coughlan '09 in the triple jump will need to be immediate contributors. The teams' depth and determination will be musts if this year's talent-laden squads are to win their first NESCAC championships in 15 years.

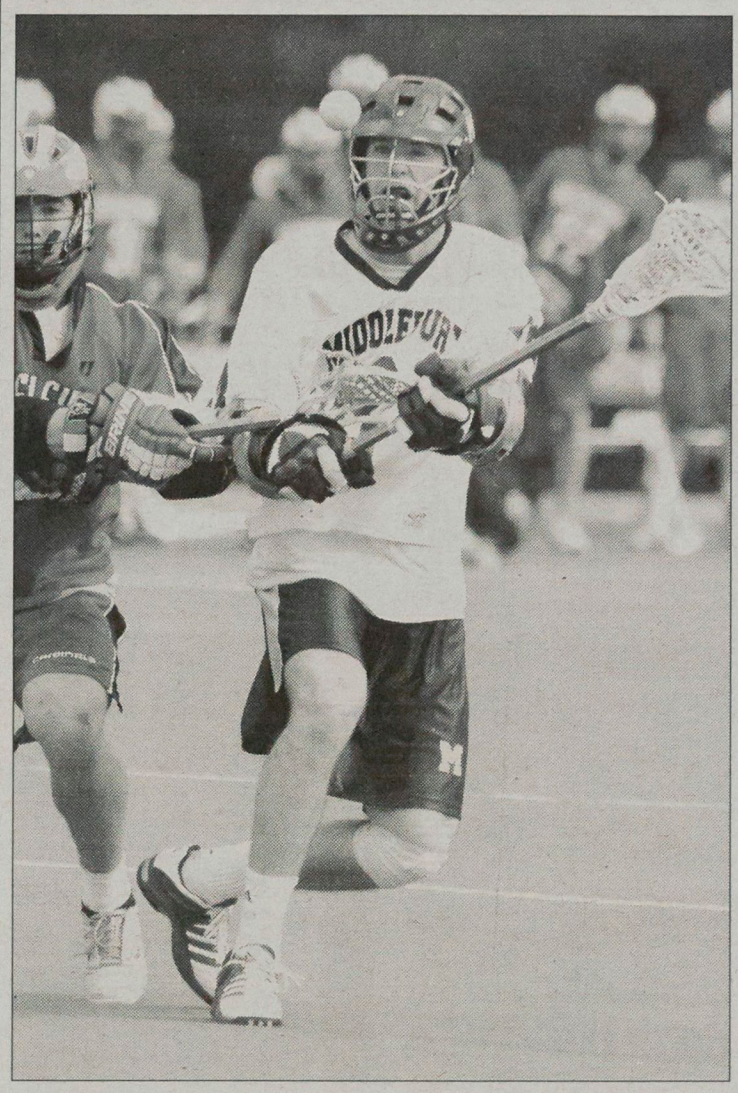
Look for the Panthers to do well this weekend at Williams, then really pave the way for their championship run in a couple weeks when they return home to the Dragone Track and Field for the second Panther Invitational. The Panthers showed a great deal of resiliency this weekend amidst the abysmal weather. Senior Matt Angoff aptly quoted the team as being tough to beat this year with its "savage determination and skill across the board."

BY THE NUMBERS

By Jeff Patterson, Staff Writer

1	Number of NESCAC lacrosse losses for the men's team on Kohn Field in its seven years of existence
14	Women's lax players with at least one goal on the year (only seven players can be in the offensive zone)
16	Men's lax players with at least one goal this season
71.2	Average height in inches of the players on the baseball team
71.2	Average height in inches of the players on the men's lacrosse team
24	Television program on The Grille's big screen during the time that UCLA and Florida were playing for the National Championship. Ouch!

Seeing Red



Albert Bitici

Hounded by a Wesleyan defender, Middlebury's Henry Sheehan '06 tosses a pass during the Panthers' 10-7 April 1 loss to the Cardinals.

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Mercy Trent '06: straight from the horse's mouth

***The Campus*: Is riding horses your favorite thing to do in the world?**

Mercy Trent: Definitely in the top five.

***TC*: How did you get into it in the first place?**

MT: I don't know, I was a horse-crazy little kid — I mean, I feel like a lot of little girls are. So I started taking lessons when I was little with some friends and it stuck. I just loved it.

***TC*: What do you love most about riding horses?**

MT: My favorite part is definitely the animal. I am going to sound like a sap, but it is amazing when you click with a horse and everything just, like, works. Everything just falls into order, it's such a cool feeling. I mean, I don't even have to ride, I can just go down to the barn and hang out and feel totally happy.

***TC*: Did the fact you could ride here influence your decision to come to Middlebury at all?**

MT: I knew Midd had a team and that the barn wasn't too far from campus. I had to be able to ride some at school, that was a definite requirement, but I didn't come here because I wanted to ride here specifically.

***TC*: Have you ridden all four years?**

MT: Yep.

***TC*: And you've been captain for how many?**

MT: One and a half — I started when I got back from abroad last spring.

***TC*: What are the responsibilities for the captain of the equestrian team?**

MT: We organize riding lessons, try to get people to join, get people registered to show, organize the show we host, enter riders into other shows, organize the occassional meeting or banquet — stuff like that.

Courtesy / Ryan W. Reese

***TC*: How often do you have shows?**

MT: This year was weird 'cause we basically had all our shows in the fall. I think there are like eight or nine teams in our region and almost every one hosts at least one show… so we had six or seven in the fall and then one this spring, and then all the championship shows are after that. Usually they're more spread out, but we had one or two every weekend last fall and then basically none this spring.

***TC*: How do they work?**

MT: Everyone is split into divisions based on level, and then you compete against other riders in your division. The top three divisions do two classes, a class is like an event, one jumping and the other is a flat class which is basically control of the horse and stuff. You are judged on your position and how well you ride the horse you are on. The trick is that horses are provided by the hosting school and you randomly draw one for your class, so you are on a horse you have never ridden before which can be kinda tricky.

***TC*: When you finally hang up your helmet, will you remember one show more than any other? Which one?**

MT: I will never hang up my helmet. But if I had to pick one show, it would probably be my first show for Middlebury. I was so nervous, and I went in and I don't remember my ride at all, it was a total blur. But I won the class.

***TC*: Have you ever wanted to be a jockey on a racehorse?**

MT: That is what I wanted to do when I was little, but I think I blew any chance I had when I passed 6 feet tall.

***TC*: Have you been to any of the major horse races?**

MT: No, but one thing on my list of things to do before I die is to go to all three races of the Triple Crown the year one horse wins them all.

***TC*: Do you have a horse that you usually ride when you're at Middlebury?**

MT: The horse I am riding most right now is named Willa.

***TC*: Do you think she'd be good friends with Shroeder?**

MT: No, Schroeder only likes to hang out with little ponies. He likes to feel big and strong, and Willa is really big.

***TC*: What do horses do when they're not being ridden by someone?**

MT: Eat, sleep and be merry.

***TC*: Why do people say that they need to pee like a racehorse?**

MT: [laughs] I don't know. Maybe cause racehorses are always in a big rush and so are people when they have to pee really bad.

***TC*: How do you discipline a horse when he/she steps out of line?**

MT: It depends.

***TC*: I hear you were on a calendar not so long ago…**

MT: [laughs] Yeah... Miss June 2005.

***TC*: Did your horse strut around like he owned the place when he saw the photo?**

MT: Iceman didn't like it. He thought it made him look fat.

***TC*: Is riding something you'll continue to do wherever you are?**

MT: Definitely.

***TC*: What's your favorite movie involving horses?**

MT: Honestly, I am not a big horse-movie kinda gal.

***TC*: Did you cry during *Seabiscuit*?**

MT: Yeah, but so did you so you can't get me on that one!

— Tom McCann, Sports Editor

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Result	Comments
Apr. 1	W Tennis	Conn. Coll.	8 - 1	Midd number-one doubles team the only loss against the Camels.
Apr. 1	W Lacrosse	Trinity	16 - 11	Renehan '06 leads team with four goals and two assists on the day.
Apr. 1	M Lacrosse	Wesleyan	7 - 10	Panthers suffer first home NESCAC loss in 11 years.
Mar. 29	M Lacrosse	Springfield	10 - 11	Pride upsets Panthers in last five seconds of regulation.
Mar. 28	W Lacrosse	Union	15 - 5	Kim Walker '07 leads the Panthers with three goals and two assists.

SPORTSBRIEFS

BY ZAMIR AHMED, SPORTS EDITOR

Renehan '06 grabs POTW

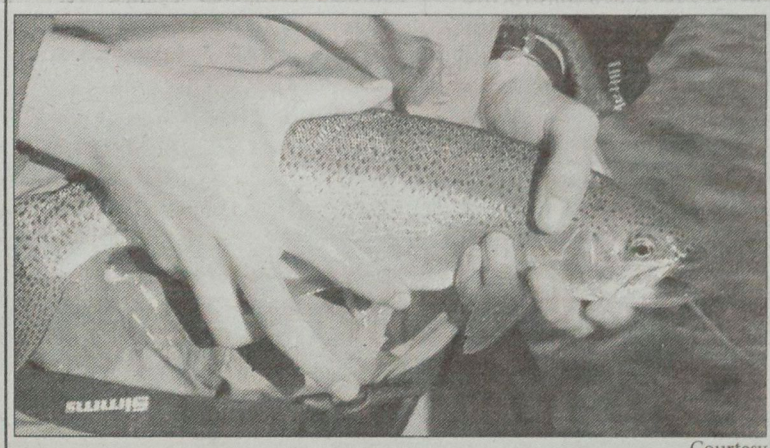
Middlebury's Elizabeth Renehan '06 was named the NESCAC Women's Lacrosse Player of the Week on April 3. The co-captain recorded six goals and three assists as the Panthers picked up two wins during the week to move to 5-1 on the season.

On March 28, Renehan notched two goals and added an assist as the number-two ranked Panthers cruised to an easy 15-5 home win over number-12 ranked Union College. Renehan followed up this performance with one even more impressing on March 30, this time netting four goals and tallying two assists in the Panthers' 16-11 win over NESCAC rival Trinity.

Renehan currently leads the team with 13 goals to go along with her three assists for a total of 16 points on the season. The midfielder has made herself known in other ways as well, picking up a team-leading 16 ground balls and causing 17 turnovers.

The Panthers currently sit at the top of the NESCAC standings with a 3-0 conference record. The team is looking to continue its divisional excellence this season. Middlebury has won all five NESCAC crowns since the league started deciding conference champions in 2001. The Panthers' next game will be April 8 at Kohn Field against Bowdoin College, the team most likely to challenge Middlebury for the conference title and presently undefeated on the season at 7-0.

Fly Fishing Club casts off



Courtesy

The Middlebury College Fly Fishing Club (MiddFly) will hold its first meeting of the Vermont fishing season on Thursday, April 6 at 8 p.m in the Gifford classroom. The club is open to fishers with skills ranging from expert to beginner as well as both students and faculty. The organization currently boasts an official membership of 200.

This season, MiddFly is looking to become more of a social club and expand its involvement in the College community. In the past, the club has mainly provided equipment for interested fishers to rent as well as providing information about local fishing areas. The organization hopes to expand its services this spring, with ideas such as free casting clinics, guided trout and salmon fly fishing trips in Vermont, a spring stream cleaning and a fly tying night.

One major event the club is looking forward to holding this spring is a fishing competition against Yale and Harvard. During the 1920s, these colleges traveled to Nova Scotia for a deep-sea fishing tournament in search of giant tuna but the event eventually came to a end. MiddFly hopes to revive this tradition with a competition against the colleges for steelhead, brown trout or rainbow trait. The meet will most likely take place in New Hampshire and Maine before the end of the academic year.

For those anglers looking for a more casual fishing experience that still would like to test their skills, the club's Web site is a place where College fishermen can send in pictures for the photo gallery as well as statistics of their best catches to compete for a place in the club's Trophy Room.

The fishing season runs from April 8 to Oct. 31 and offers students a chance to get outdoors and appreciate Vermont's majestic rivers and streams.

Unsung Hero of the Week

Matt Angoff '06 — Track & Field
Stepped in to run third leg of 4x400m relay at this weekend's Panther Invite

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM | MERCY TRENT '06 STEPS OFF HER STEED TO CHAT | 27

TRACK & FIELD | PANTHER INVITE A SUCCESS DESPITE WIND AND RAIN | 26

GAMES TO WATCH

MEN'S TENNIS
VS. UNION
APRIL 8 | 10:30 A.M.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE
VS. BOWDOIN
APRIL 8 | 11:00 A.M.

campus sports
THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2006

Continentals conquered in Sunday double dip

By Dave Lee
Staff Writer

The Middlebury softball team returned to action against NESCAC rival Hamilton this Sunday, picking up two wins to begin its conference schedule a perfect 2-0. These wins are important to the team's overall record, but more importantly, they will give a boost to the team's confidence after a shaky preseason trip to Florida.

The team dropped its first four games to non-conference rivals Hamline, University of Chicago, Worcester and Wellesley before picking up its first win over Carleton. Something was not clicking. Susan Miranowski '07 thought the problem was simple. "We were nervous. It was the first time we had played live softball outside in a long time," she said.

Softball

Sunday, April 2

Middlebury	12
Hamilton	6

Sunday, April 2

Middlebury	5
Hamilton	2

The restaurant "Cheeburger Cheeburger" in Fort Meyers, however, proved to be the magic that got this talented young team back on track. As tradition goes on nights before the last games, rookies Amelia Magistrali '09, Allison Bard '08 and Natalie Komrovsky '09 stepped up and ate "The Pounder," a mammoth-sized one-pound hamburger offered at the restaurant more as a challenge than a realistic entrée.

It seems that this feat of consumption was all the team needed. The women responded immediately with two of their best performances of the season — a 7-2 win over Bethel and a heart-breaking one-run loss to powerhouse Southern Maine. Captain Lauren Battaglia '06 led the team with an incredible .410 batting average while both Middlebury hurlers maintained ERA's below 2.00. With the nerves gone and "The Pounder" digested, the Panthers were ready to return to Vermont on the right foot.

The Middlebury bats were certainly ready when they took on Hamilton in Game One of the day's doubleheader. The team notched 12 runs on 10 hits as the women rolled to a 12-6 victory over an error-plagued Hamilton squad. Although the team went down 3-0 early, partly due to Hamilton's first-year standout Amber O'Connor going 4-4 with three RBI, a huge two-run single by Maura Casey '07 in the second inning sparked the Panther offence to an easy victory. Pitcher Jen Williams '07 earned the win while striking out five and even added a little offence herself, scoring two runs for the squad.

Game Two proved to be a closer contest as both squads tightened up their defense. With the score tied 2-2 in the fifth, Battaglia knocked a two-run double to give Middlebury a 4-2 lead. An insurance fifth and final run was added in the sixth with an RBI double from Casey, giving Middlebury the 5-2 victory. Katie Hurd '06.5 paced the team, going a perfect 3-3 in the contest. Pitcher Brittany Burke '08 had a standout day on the mound, allowing only one earned run while striking out five Hamilton batters and pitching the full seven innings.

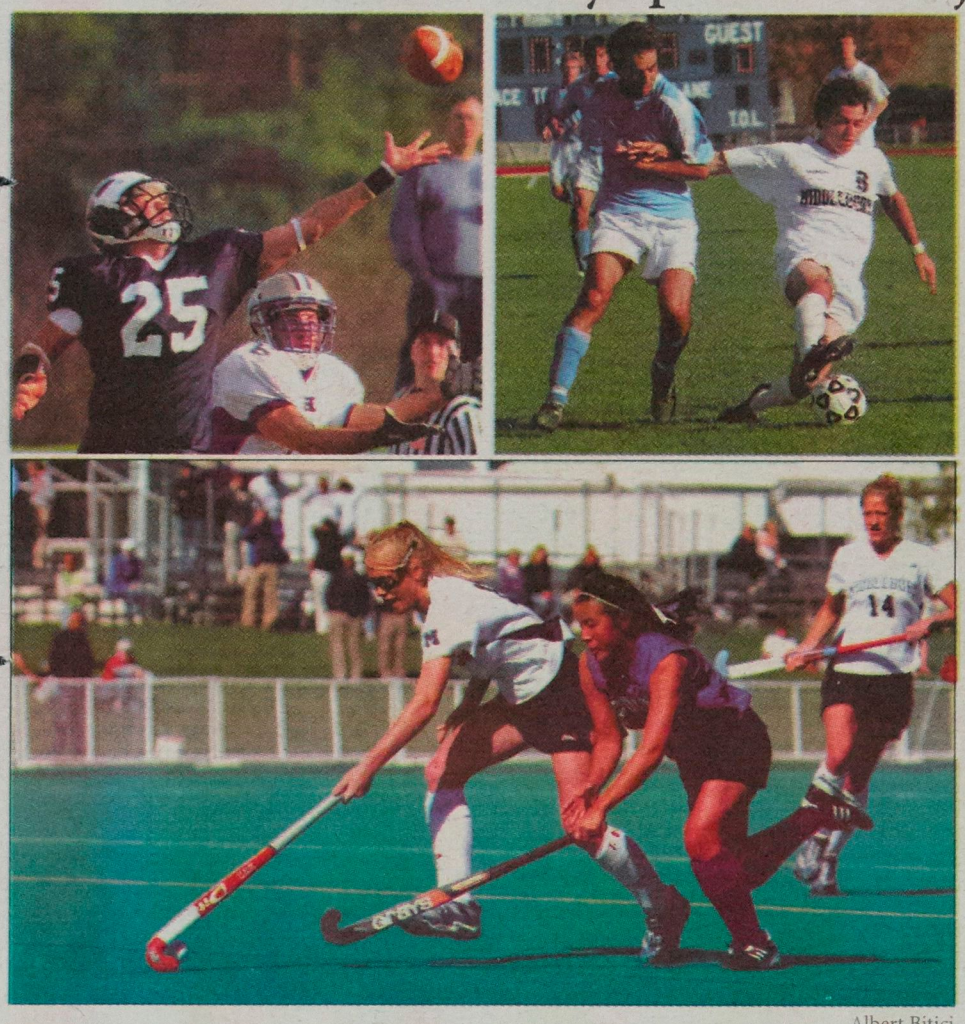
Although Hamilton is one of the weaker squads the Panther women will face this season, sophomore center fielder Katelyn Cannella realizes that every win counts; she said, "It's really nice to get two under our belt to prepare us to face other NESCAC rivals like Amherst and Williams. It's our NESCAC record that gets us a spot in the post-season." With seven players batting over .300 on the season, a post-season birth could be in reach. The team will next travel to Amherst on Saturday, April 8 for a doubleheader.

Albert Bitici

Jennifer Williams '07 pitches her way through a win against the Hamilton Continentals during the Panthers doubleheader this past Sunday. Middlebury won both games to move to 6-6.

Panther athletics rally behind Relay for Life

Plethora of Middlebury sports teams join community in fight against cancer



Albert Bitici

Many of Middlebury's athletes are teaming up in order to provide a good example in supporting the college's Relay for Life celebration which takes place on April 28-29.

By James Kerrigan
Staff Writer

When Middlebury College sports teams have not been winning championships, they have been making their presence felt through contributions off the field, court and rink. To date, 10 teams are participating in this year's Relay For Life event on April 28-29.

Relay For Life, a fundraising project for the American Cancer Society, defines itself through community contribution. The Web site describes the event's mission: "One day. One night. One community. Your Relay For Life is about celebration, remembrance and hope. By participating, you honor cancer survivors, pay tribute to the lives we've lost to the disease, and raise money to help fight it — all right here in your community." The fundraising event will conclude with an all-night walk-a-thon featuring new, thematic laps, including the BYOB (bring your own bubbles) lap and the electric slide lap.

The athletes will make their way around the track in a variety of ways — but they are unified in their participation. There are 70 teams in all, and three of the top five fundraisers are Middlebury athletic teams. The appropriately named Middlebury Football Tackling Cancer team stands in third place, behind Ova Chicks to the Rescue and Survivors of the Fittest. The football team has raised $4,715, just shy of their ambitious $5,000 goal.

Last year, the softball and football teams combined to raise $10,000. The two teams have already raised $9,500 with the biggest fundraising month forthcoming. But it's not just these two teams making a difference.

Men's lacrosse has collected $2,460. The team has cracked the fundraising rankings — it currently occupies the fifth position. Several other squads have raised over $1,000 including the field hockey team ($1,985), women's squash team ($1,600), the men's soccer team ($1,345) and the swim team ($1,310).

Ross Lieb-Lappen '07, the man in charge of registration, acknowledged the impact of the sports teams: "This year, the teams have gone well beyond everyone's wildest dreams. It seems as though just about every sports team also participates in Relay. With the biggest fundraising month still to come, Middlebury sports teams have already raised over $17,000 for the fight against cancer."

But it's not just dollars that the athletes are contributing — they have personally swarmed to Relay For Life in large numbers. Lieb-Lappen said: "Our three biggest teams in terms of participants are football (43 people), swim team (25) and field hockey (25). That's close to 100 percent participation for each of those teams. It truly says something about the character of athletes here at Middlebury."

Athletes and teams have turned personal experiences and stories into dollars in a truly meaningful manner. For example, second baseman for the softball team, Maura Casey '07 — the kickoff speaker for this year's event

See Athletes, page 25